

THE

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1979

NORFOLK ISLAND NEWS

50c

**SPECIAL
FOR TOURISTS!**
FREE INSIDE THIS ISSUE - THE
ISLAND HANDBOOK
FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS + MAP + BASIC INFO
+ EYE-OPENING "5 CLUES TO UNDERSTANDING NORFOLK"

The people and the Council take a stand on Norfolk's future:

The Bill: No

THE PEOPLE WON'T WEAR IT -
COUNCIL VOTES 8 - 0 AGAINST IT

Our Sea: Yes

OUR 200-MILE ZONE IS OURS, NOT
YOURS, COUNCIL TELLS AUSTRALIA

Self-Gov't: Yes

WE MUST CONTROL SPENDING,
WELFARE. LOCAL LAWS, LAND

A Flag: Yes

COUNCIL APPROVES - PUBLIC
INVITED TO HELP DESIGN IT

Airport: Yes

AUSTRALIA CAN'T DECIDE -
COUNCIL SAYS "LET US DO IT"

Coinage: Yes

\$250,000 A YEAR FOR NORFOLK -
COUNCIL IS ALL IN FAVOUR

Strong outside support:

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SAYS "YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION" - - - SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION SAYS "YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A SEAT" - - - TOP AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIST SAYS "YOUR ECONOMY CAN SUPPORT YOUR ISLAND" - - - 'PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY' SAYS "PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ASPIRE TO SELF GOVERNMENT" - - - READERS WRITE IN TO SUPPORT NORFOLK AIMS

PLUS:

A NEW CONSTITUTION DRAFT... BACKGROUND TO MINISTER'S MARCH VISIT... A BIG REPORT ON THE PUBLIC MEETING... AUSTRALIA POURS AID AND CULTURAL SUPPORT INTO OTHER ISLANDS... THE OLD DAYS ON NORFOLK... ELEGANT NEW SHOP OPENS... HELEN PAYNE... GOOD WINES 'IN BOND'... 'LETTER FROM HOME'

COME LOOK US UP FOR SOME OF THE
BEST AND CHEAPEST SHOPPING ON NORFOLK

NORFOLK SOUVENIRS

We are hard to find because we're back in behind other shops along Taylor's Road. It's worth looking for us because we have 1,000s of items at old-fashioned prices that you'll want to compare with those elsewhere.

Our shop is also nice just to visit because it is a handsome pine cottage, in a garden setting next

to the ruins of the old Norfolk bakery. The furnishings are made from massive, rough chunks of Norfolk Pine.

Our entry drive is across Taylor's Road from Four Corners shop. If you get lost, ask anybody where we are. It is only a few minutes' walk up the road from the Post Office and Tourist Bureau.



LOCALLY-MADE HANDCRAFTS -- SHELL COLLECTIONS -- NORFOLK PAINTINGS
AND PRINTS -- BEAUTIFUL JEWELLERY AT REAL BARGAIN PRICES -- SAPPHIRES,
RUBIES, JADE, OPALS, AGATE, CORAL, MOTHER-OF-PEARL -- SILVER AND
GOLD-PLATED NATURAL SHELL JEWELLERY -- STERLING SILVER AND GOLD CHAIN
-- NORFOLK ISLAND STAMPS OF THE PAST -- BOOKS -- MAPS -- GLASSWARE



REALLY NICE BUT CHEAP GIFTS THAT PEOPLE BACK HOME WILL APPRECIATE



OPEN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS! WHEN MOST SHOPS ON NORFOLK ARE CLOSED

TRADING HOURS: 8.30 - 5.30 EVERY WEEKDAY - NO LUNCH BREAKS - WEEKENDS FROM 8.30 - 12.30

DRAMATIC DAY IN KINGSTON

FEBRUARY 7TH, 1979 ought to go down in history as the day when the elected representatives of the people of Norfolk psychologically began to take the reins of self-government.

The Norfolk Island Council is legally still nothing but an advisory body.

Australia so far has not decided to let go of any of its real control of the Island.

But at the monthly Council meeting in February the eight elected Councillors -

- Unanimously, courteously and firmly informed the Australian Government that its Norfolk Island Bill for the Island's future government is not acceptable to the Island, and that negotiations for an adequate degree of self-government will need to continue;

- Said that if Australia can't make up its mind about necessary improvements to the Island airport, Council would like authority to borrow some \$3 million itself, and get the work done. The loan and 10% interest could be repaid, Council believes, with a charge of only \$23 on each return ticket to Norfolk - and jet aircraft could offset that amount with their increased efficiency.

- Informed the Minister that they counted on the benefits of the 200-mile ocean zone around Norfolk to be reserved for the Island's use, and not pre-empted by Australia.

- Proposed a study of the economics of buying surplus Hercules aircraft, and converting them for passenger use, in the absence of any clear plan by East-West Airlines to replace its F-27 planes. Preliminary Council figures suggest that the converted Hercules planes could be operated profitably at fares about 1/3 less than East-West now charges.

- Kept pressing for the issuance of Norfolk Island coins, which could add an estimated \$250,000 a year to Island revenues.

- Said they had been handicapped in negotiations with Mr. Ellcott so far because of the lack of an expert constitutional law adviser to assist Council, and asked the Commonwealth to provide funds for such an adviser in forthcoming negotiations. If the Commonwealth would not pay, Council said they would be quite ready to see the costs paid from the Island's own funds.

- Demanded that Australia stop walling Norfolk off from the other Islands of the Pacific, and honour its obligation to let Council representatives take part in this year's South Pacific Conference.

- Carpeted Norfolk's Australian Administrator, Mr. D.V. O'Leary, for using a misleading threat to collect back fees from landowners living overseas.

- Invited public suggestions, in the next month, for the design of a Norfolk Island flag, and authorised the drafting of an ordinance creating the flag.

The meeting caught Mr. O'Leary off balance almost from the start. On issue after issue, Councillors laid out evidence that the Commonwealth's form of administration of the Island is ill-informed, negligent of major needs and opportunities, and bound up in Canberra red tape that has no connection with the realities of Norfolk.

On point after point they presented constructive, positive views on what the Island needs - in the face of Canberra policies which have been uncertain, damagingly delayed and too often paternalistic.

The public segment of the meeting lasted almost four hours.

Extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate an over-flow crowd of residents and visitors in the public gallery.

Mr. O'Leary appeared to have no

awareness, beforehand, of how strongly and unanimously the elected Councillors were going to slate the unacceptability of the Norfolk Island Bill.

As recently as December it seemed that Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Ellcott might be able to coax and nudge Council into going along with the Bill. Early that month the Administrator even floated a suggestion that Councillors might like to give it their quick, unanimous endorsement.

But Council waited to hear what their electors thought, and the result was the 8-0 vote against.

The result had an important effect on the current Norfolk governmental situation, quite apart from the negotiations on the Bill itself.

As part of his duties Mr. O'Leary has done his best to promote acceptance of first the Nimmo Report and later the Bill - and to hold down opposition to them. On February 7th, from the Department's point of view, he couldn't deliver even one Councillor when things came to the crunch. From the Island's point of view he had worked against Norfolk's best interest and lost.

Credibility is essential to effective government, and credibility tends to flow to winners. On the afternoon of February 7th a substantial amount of credibility in the governing of Norfolk Island shifted from the Administratorship to the elected Council.

OFFICIAL: NORFOLK VIABLE

NORFOLK'S ECONOMY is able to support the Island and should be able to go on doing so without subsidies from Australia.

That is the conclusion of Prof. Ronald Gates, one of Australia's top economists, who is just completing the most detailed study of the Island's economy ever conducted.

In a preview of findings that will be presented in full to the Minister in March, Prof. Gates revealed in February that "the information we have gathered and the analysis we have done make it clear that the Island does have a viable economy." ("Viable: able to maintain a separate existence" - Oxford Dictionary.)

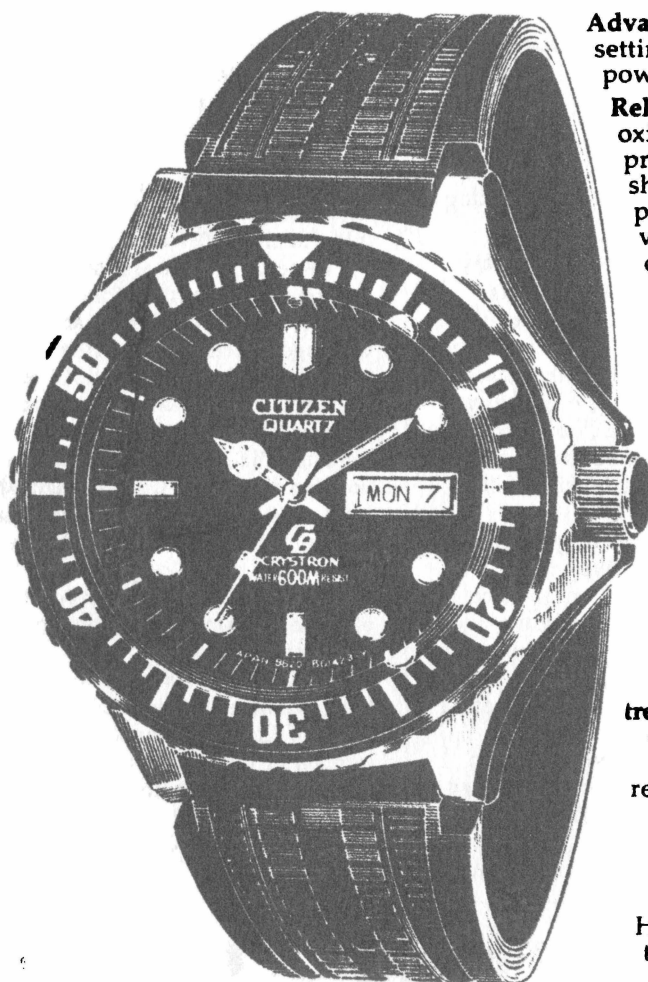
He said he thought it was appropriate to reassure the people of the Island on that major point, in advance of completing his detailed report.

Prof. Gates told The News that the various parts of the study - a census of all households, financial returns from all businesses, a survey of tourist expenditure and interviews with many people on the Island - all gave consistent results and reinforced the reliability of the findings. He said the censuses were "almost copy-book exercises".

"Income and expenditure per head of the population are not much different from those in mainland Aust-

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ralia," he said.

"Self financing is feasible. The economic capacity is there."

When the full report becomes available, it will provide basic reference points for understanding how Norfolk's economy works, and for making timely and well-informed decisions in managing the Island's budget.

The report is expected to include recommendations for regular updating of economic information, so that Island decision-makers can have a better understanding of what they are doing from now on, indefinitely into the future.

It is not known whether the detailed economic report and recommendations will be tabled in Parliament, or how quickly it will become available on the Island.

But it is one of the most important and eagerly-awaited reports in recent Norfolk history, and will have profound effects on the Island's future when it becomes public.

Minister will Arrive Mar. 12

COUNCIL SEEKING LEGAL ADVISER

MINISTER R. J. ELLICOTT will return to Norfolk March 12-15, shortly after the resumption of Parliament late in February.

The purpose of his visit was not stated in the announcement made to Council on February 7th.

In deciding on the trip Mr. Ellicott would have been aware of the strong public reaction against the Norfolk Island Bill at a public meeting on January 16th, and of the United Nations Association's offer to conduct a Voluntary Act of Self-Determination on the Island if requested to do so by Council.

But at the time of the announcement of his visit, Council had not yet declared that the Bill was unacceptable and that they needed to resume discussions with Mr. Ellicott.

It appears unlikely that serious negotiations could re-open on March 12 because Council has declared its need for an adviser in constitutional law to assist them in future talks. It may not be practical for Council to select, appoint and brief such an expert in a period of only a few weeks.

Competent advice is not available locally. When the appointment of an adviser was agreed to at Council on February 7, the Administrator ges-

tured toward Administration Legal Adviser Bill Hall and said Council could use him at no cost.

But when Councillor Greg Quintal asked if the Administrator was willing to appoint Mr. Hall formally as adviser to Council, Mr. O'Leary said "He's too busy."

Technically Parliament could enact the Norfolk Island Bill just before Mr. Ellicott's planned visit, leaving him with the gunboat job of coming to the Island to pacify the natives and fly the Australian flag.

Council regards such a possibility as almost unimaginable. Since last May Mr. Ellicott has assured the Island that the Commonwealth would

work out the new Norfolk form of government by consultation, collaboration and consensus with the Island. Bumping the Bill through as it stands, or with a few dressed-up modifications - in the face of Council's unanimous dissent - would simply show the world that "consensus" was a sham and that Australia intended to take possession of Norfolk willing or unwilling.

The probability is that Mr. Ellicott's trip can best be used to block out the program for continuing discussions with Council, formally abandon the July 1979 target date for starting up a Legislative Assembly, and reassure residents that Australia's intentions are honourable.

"THE PEOPLE OF NORFOLK ARE ENTITLED TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION"

U.N.A.A. STATEMENT

MR. R. K. ALSTON, President of the United Nations Association of Australia, visited Norfolk for a fact-finding tour from January 24-29.

He held informal meetings with the Council, the Administrator, the Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers and other groups and individuals.

The News asked Mr. Alston if he would state the U.N.A.A.'s exact position and role in relation to the Island's situation. The following is a transcript of the interview with him.

Q: What is the purpose of the United Nations Association?

A: In general terms, to support the aims and ideals of the U.N., and to ensure that governments, in particular the Australian Government, adhere to their international obligations.

Q: What is the U.N.A.A. - who is it?

A: It's a fairly broad group of individuals from all political parties who are outside government, and who believe that there is a role to be played by a non-government organisation in taking up a number of the important issues that come before the U.N., and discussing their relevance to Australia.

Q: Who are the members of the Federal Executive?

A: I'm the Federal President. The immediate past President is Mr. Justice Underhill, a Judge of the Family Court of Australia, from Queensland.

His predecessor was Maj. - Gen. Paul Cullen, A.O., D.F.C. and all the rest.

Q: Are those two still on the Federal Executive?

A: Mr. Justice Underhill is, but not Paul Cullen. Cullen is a very well-known public figure, because he was chairman of Austcare, chairman of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, the Jewish Welfare Society, the Australian Society for the Blind, the C.M.F. . . and so on.

There are four Vice-Presidents. Mrs. Storey, Victoria; Mike Rolfe, A.C.T.; Shan Hoskyns, South Australia; and Merv Knight, Western Australia. Secretary is Geoff Hogan, N.S.W.; Treasurer, the Rev. W. Arkell, N.S.W.; the Disarmament and Human Rights Officer is Dr. Keith Suter, N.S.W. That last is a non-elected position, as is John Bulbeck's - he is Federal Media Officer, appointed for the current year in the knowledge that he would be in the United States for much of the year.

Q: What is the United Nations Association's position on Norfolk at the moment?

A: The Association continues to take the view that Norfolk Island is geographically, ethnically and culturally distinct from mainland Australia, and therefore comes within the provisions of Article 73 of the Charter of the U.N., which provides that such groups of peoples should be regarded as non-self-governing trust territories, which have the right to determine their own future.

The Association considers, therefore, that the people of Norfolk Island are entitled to make their own decision as to their future form of government - and is not satisfied that the present Bill provides a form of government that is acceptable to the majority of the residents - of the voters - of the people.

Hands Off Our Zone, Council Tells Aust.

COUNCIL TOOK A firm stand in February on Norfolk's entitlement to the benefits from the surrounding ocean.

At the January meeting Councilors expressed their concern that the 200-mile zone around Norfolk should not be lumped in with "Australian" waters and managed for Australia's financial benefit. But they passed no resolution on the subject, and left it to the Administrator to pass their views on to the Minister.

Mr. O'Leary reported that he had done so, and had asked for a clarification of the Commonwealth's policies.

In February Council made it clear where they stood by passing a resolution -

"That in respect of the 200-nautical-mile fishing zone to be created by the Fisheries Amendment Act 1978, Council seeks the Minister's assurance, firstly that the benefit of the zone is acknowledged to be for the people of Norfolk Island; and secondly that no agreement respecting fishing rights in the zone will be entered into without prior consultation with, and approval of, the Island through this Council."

Letter Criticised

A "PAY-UP" LETTER sent by the Administrator to land owners who live overseas and have not paid their annual fees was sharply criticised at February Council.

The letter read in part "The Ordinance also provides for me to recover the amount of the levy and interest by law, and in certain circumstances I may apply to the Supreme Court for an order to sell the land to which the levy applies. Naturally I am reluctant to take such steps, and I would therefore hope that you would send along the amount outstanding by 31st January 1979."

Councillor Bennett pointed out that the Ordinance allows such a procedure only after payments have been in arrears for five years - and the Ordinance has only existed for three years. He said that from the viewpoint of people receiving the letter, it looked like intimidation.

"I believe such threatening is uncalled for, and it has upset a number of people, and I'd like my comments noted."

"WE WANT OUR SEAT AT THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE"

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS of inquiries and unsatisfactory answers about Norfolk's right to take part in the annual South Pacific Conference, Council has finally made a direct request to the Commonwealth to let two members of Council attend this year.

The February Council meeting resolved that "the Australian Government's policy of denying Norfolk Island access to the Island's seat at the South Pacific Commission is in breach of the Island's clear rights, and a denial of its political identity as a member of the Pacific community. This Council asks the Australian Government forthwith to arrange the attendance of representatives of the Island, nominated by this Council, at the next meeting of the South Pacific Commission."

Councillor McIntyre made the motion, which received unanimous support.

Councillor Bennett said "This right has been denied the people of Norfolk Island because the Australian Government has never advised or made known this right. Norfolk Island is entitled to send representatives to the South Pacific Conference. This entitlement is categori-

cal and unequivocal.

"But we have never been so advised by Australia. Why? The answer is obvious. The Australian Government has not had any intention of inviting Norfolk Island to participate... the subject has been raised by Council on a number of occasions, and we have been fobbed off each time.

"They have continued a policy of depriving Norfolk Island of representation."

Councillor Bennett recited the history of Norfolk's having been entitled to participate ever since 1947.

"I regret the hint of antagonism that surrounds the motion," he said, "but, for goodness sake, we have tried hard to get through, all to no avail."

The Administrator said that the question was being considered "at the highest level" and that the Minister had sent a paper on it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"I have been concerned about somewhat of a dilemma that has existed between Norfolk Island and the South Pacific Commission," he said, and hoped there would be clarification quite soon.

THERE HAS BEEN A CONFERENCE SEAT RESERVED FOR NORFOLK FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS, OFFICIAL PUBLICATION SAYS

FOR 28 YEARS Australian Government policy has systematically been blocking Norfolk Island from establishing relationships with the other islands of the South Pacific.

This fact was revealed on Norfolk last month with the publication of "Regional Co-operation in the South Pacific", a booklet distributed by the South Pacific Commission to describe its history, aims and activities.

Three previous editions of the booklet have been published, but the latest one includes for the first time a table listing "Countries and territories entitled to send representatives to the South Pacific Conference".

Norfolk is included as one of the 25 countries and territories which have "the right to send to the Conference a Representative and Alternate, each of whom has the right to speak".

Over the years members of Coun-

cil have asked about the possibility of Norfolk's taking part in the Conference, but Australia has blocked any participation by the Island, ever since the first Conference in 1950.

As a result Norfolk has been shut off from its Pacific neighbours, and from making its views and needs known.

The new publication highlights what the Australian policy has denied Norfolk:

- "economic and social welfare and advancement" - the objective of the South Pacific Commission, for Pacific peoples.

- A free voice. The Commission exists for various stated purposes, the first of which is "to provide a common forum within which the Island people and their Governments can express themselves on issues, problems, needs and ideas common to the region, with a view to maintaining the opportunity for all Islands to be heard, viewed, considered and

assisted on equal terms to one another."

- Participation in the region. A stated objective of the Commission is "to be a vehicle for the development and implementation of the concept of regionalism".

- Cultural and economic exchange. The Commission is supposed to "foster and develop means to facilitate the flow of indigenous products, technical know-how and people among the islands".

A glaring example of the Australian policy occurred some years ago when the dentist employed by the Norfolk Administration wanted to attend a South Pacific Commission conference on children's dental care in the islands. He wanted to present a paper on the subject, and to learn from others who would be attending. He was forbidden to attend. It is fair to assume that as a result of Australia's policy, at least some children, on Norfolk and elsewhere, now have dental problems that could have been prevented.

**TOTALLY UNOFFICIAL SO FAR,
BUT IT'S A BEAUTY -**

New Draft Const'n

A STRIKING NEW PROPOSAL for a Norfolk Island Constitution is currently being studied by the elected members of Council.

The proposal was drafted last year. It was never tabled in Council because Council became fully occupied with discussions on drafts of the Norfolk Island Bill.

As it grew obvious in late January that the Bill was not an acceptable plan for the future government of the Island, the proposal was brought to light and circulated among Councillors for their consideration.

A few copies have got into public circulation and are being discussed with high interest.

The first Norfolk draft for an Island constitution was prepared early last year, was published, and was widely debated. One of the main reactions from residents was that the language was too legalistic.

The new proposal seems to give the Island and the Commonwealth all the power either one needs. All laws would be made locally - but any of them could be vetoed by Australia.

Features of the second-draft proposal include -

- It was prepared taking into account widespread comments on the first draft. These included detailed analytical papers on the first draft, prepared by constitutional and ad-

ministrative experts in Australia, New Zealand and in the Cook Islands.

- The language has been completely simplified.

- The concepts of government have been simplified as well.

- A locally-elected body, called "The House" in keeping with the old name of the law-making body that existed on the island when Norfolk had self-government in the last century, would make all Norfolk's internal laws. There would be no procedure for Australia to make internal Norfolk laws.

- A full-time Australian authority on the island - to be called "Commissioner" instead of "Administrator" - would have the power to ask for amendments to any proposed laws, and to veto any law, if Australia thought it was a bad law.

- If Australia's veto power was used wisely, and most residents felt it was an aid to good government on the island, the veto power would continue indefinitely. But if residents felt Australia was using the veto power for its own benefit, and to the island's disadvantage, voters would have a chance once each five years to vote at referendum - and if 60% of electors wanted the veto power cancelled, it would cease.

- Certain Australian laws would apply on Norfolk, by agreement of The House and the Commonwealth. If The House wanted to cancel any particular Australian law, so far as Norfolk was concerned, it could do so on 12 months notice, even without Australia's agreement.

- Australia would have full authority over foreign affairs and defence.

- All electors would have the right to attend meetings of The House, and to speak up if they wanted to add something to the debate.

- Referendums on almost any subject affecting the island's peace, order and good government could be called at any time, by The House or by a petition signed by one-third of electors.

- Day-to-day administrative authority on the island would be in the hands of an Executive Council, consisting of Australia's Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and four members of The House. The Commissioner would be chairman. If all four House members were agreed on any particular matter, they would have the controlling vote. If House members were split on some issue, the Commissioner and his Deputy, representing Australia, would hold the balance of power.

- The Commissioner would not have

a vote in The House, but would be able to put his views to The House on any matters, and so have a direct effect on public opinion.

"PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY" GIVES BIG BOOST TO N.I.

A REPORT on Norfolk's history, politics and economy dominated the February issue of Pacific Islands Monthly, the prestigious magazine which is read throughout the Pacific.

Occupying the front cover and 19 pages inside the issue, the report was compiled by publisher Stuart Inder, who has been keeping tabs on the island, with occasional visits, for 20 years.

He gives a special accolade to Norfolk as a tourist destination. Norfolk tourists, he says, "come mainly from Australia or New Zealand to enjoy the scenic beauties of the island, or to inspect the historic buildings, or to select from an Aladdin's trove of goods offered at prices considerably cheaper than they can get them at home.

"Whatever it is they come for," Mr. Inder writes, "they get good value, and the permanent population is sincere in its welcome."

The P.I.M. report was compiled in December, with last-minute updating early in January. At that point, the magazine says, "Exactly what Norfolk Islanders felt about the bill (the Norfolk Island Bill 1978 - ed.) was not clear... controversy was developing but no clear picture had emerged."

As a result, P.I.M. said Norfolk was in an "identity crisis" as to whether the majority wanted the island to be "a small chip off Australia, or a South Pacific island state."

The lead-off article of the report was headlined "Islanders or Australians?" It relates an excellent capsule history of Norfolk, and says that Pitcairn descendants have "beneath the surface a strong spirit of independence... many have lived for long periods in Australia or New Zealand, but their overseas residency has merely strengthened their resolve to keep the Island 'separate' in a shrinking, even-busier world."

Supplies of the magazine on the island were doubled from the usual quantity air-freighted here, but the lot sold out in a day or two, and retailers were cabling for extra shipments.

Even before the issue arrived on newsstands, island opinion on the Norfolk Island Bill had rapidly begun crystallising, and it was clear that

almost no one on the island liked the Bill.

The P.I.M. report includes lengthy excerpts from a Norfolk history still in preparation by former Administrator R. N. Dalkin. He dwells on the nature of an Administrator's duties here, and says the position has become "more and more outdated and anachronistic".

An Administrator is forced into impossible situations and conflicts, Air Cdre. Dalkin says.

He cites a Royal Commission report in 1926, which recommended that "in the interests of the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island, the present Administrator be recalled without delay... In future selections, due consideration to the psychology of the Norfolk Islanders should be given; the temperament of a prospective Administrator, if not compatible with, should be capable of ready adaptability to the social conditions of the Island."

Air Cdre. Dalkin notes that this advice was "by no means always adhered to in subsequent years."

The underlying problem is neatly summed up in P.I.M.'s caption for its front-cover photo of the Administration building - "Norfolk Island - a society with a unique niche in British history; and a people who, like people anywhere, aspire to self-government."

Alice could learn from Norfolk

Sir, — The following is a story which may assist the local Tourist industry by showing it how other people do things.

In the middle of the fuel strike, we left by East-West Airlines for Norfolk Island.

We stopped at Parkes to refuel, but otherwise had an uneventful trip.

On arrival, we were met, a welcoming speech was made, and the locals made sure everyone had transport.

We arrived at our hotel, others moved into apartments, via Kennedy's transport and were immediately made aware of the local political situation:—

We had entered a tax-free, social service-free, union-free colony, which is seeking a similar status to that recently gained in the NT — internal self-government — but so far denied.

The first day was taken

up with a tour of the island. Marie's Tours have drivers descended from the original Bounty mutineers — and thus a good appreciation of the history, the geography, and the local scene was immediately available.

From the second day, we hired a mini-moke — the hills of this volcanic Isle are too steep for bicycles or walking — and spent the day on the beach.

The bathing in Emily Bay is absolutely safe for small children, and on the island there are no "bit-les."

The evenings were spent going to Island dinners. The Bounty Inn is formal, at Brauka House we were regaled with a history lesson between courses, the Commandant's Dinner had community singing with island words, and Christmas was spent listening to country and western

Letters to the editor

Sir,

As visitors to Norfolk in late December and early January of this year, my husband and I fell in love with your Island and its people. As a school teacher, I knew certain facts about Norfolk, but not the important ones.

There hasn't been anything in our Australian daily papers regarding our Federal Government's "plans" for Norfolk and we were quite ashamed to call ourselves Australians after reading the "News".

On my return I contacted Senator Don Chipp and gave him the details. Don was, for 16 years, a member of the Australian Liberal Party and in the House of Representatives in our Federal Parliament, but when the present Prime Minister came to power Don resigned because of the party's gen-

Sir,

Thought you would like this cutting from our paper here.

Could you send one of your papers across and cost per year?

A. REEVES,

Alice Springs.

(The article enclosed by Mr. Reeves appears below.)

eral lack of concern for its voters. His intentions were to quit politics altogether, but a group of people convinced him that a third political party was needed and he is now Leader of the Australian Democrats and Member of the Senate for Victoria. Don, in a reply which I received today said he will do all he can. The people of Norfolk must do their bit too.

You may wonder why a mere tourist is so irate, but the Island made a profound impression on us. We've never come across such a wonderful human community before.

I thought I'd let you know what little I have been able to do, and maybe you could get other visitors on side, because I'm sure the only Australians who know what is afoot are those who have been to Norfolk.

I was interested to hear that our Government wants 125,000 square miles of water rights — are there minerals there I wonder, because these are the "thing" with our present Government. It has been minerals that have kept the Australian economy afloat for some years.

Best of luck.

(Mrs.) Laura Harris,
New South Wales.

Help from the Cooks?

Sir,

For some time I've been very interested in the Cook Islands, and spent a week there in January last year. It seemed to me then that Rarotonga, at least, was at a cross-roads — the big new airport and tourist hotel, obviously a trend which someone thought desirable! The island-style buildings are a thing of the past. Imported canned and frozen food are changing the habits and diets of the people; veritably a culture fighting for life.

And then Sir Albert. I spent a few hours wishing him "out", as what I had read about Tom Davis suggested he was quite a different kettle of fish. And it's interesting that he is doing some good things.

He, (Dr. Davis) has made great strides in encouraging more efficient, and more agriculture, and is currently negotiating inter-island trade for many of the things which have traditionally been imported from N.Z., which not only helps his trade balance with N.Z. but en-

singing at our own hotel.

There is a local artist, a potter, and of course duty-free shops, where my wife believed it was her duty to spend a reasonable percentage of our hard-gotten gains — on a pink elephant, Irish whiskey, some French clothes and perfumes, English shoes for me, and stamps for distant friends.

Boxing Day was Beach Picnic Day. \$1.50 for sausages, chips and coleslaw was the only expense — except for drinks, and the kids scavenged for sweets in the sand, had foot races, watched the yachts, the barge races and the swimming races.

All in all, a good time was had by all. Not too much commercialism very friendly, very relaxing.

You'd never believe they had full employment without any strikes, no super-annuation, no servants, no proper harbour and a closed immigration policy.

Alice could perhaps emulate the family accommodation bit, the varied dinners, the friendliness and the unobtrusive commercialism.

Derrick J. French,
Alice Springs.

sures a more suitable sort of import, at less cost.

The other thing he is doing is committing the Cooks to the ANZUS treaty and "relieving" N. Z. of the task of defending them.

Dr. Davis certainly seems to carry some "mana". Perhaps he could be an ally for the Norfolk cause.

JEAN HAMPTON
AUCKLAND.

Cause of unhappiness

Sir,

I hope that through your paper I may be able to explain to the many visitors who have come and gone from our Island wondering (as they put it) why there could be so much hate and unhappiness when we have so much to be grateful for on this beautiful Island.

I used to shrug and remind them that the serpent got into the Garden of Eden, so maybe he got into our Paradise.

As time went by, I realised that visitors could and were really feeling this thing that really exists here. As tourism is most vital to us, and I always class it as 'The Hen that Layed the Golden Egg', I will try and explain that this thing that really exists is not "hate". It is a feeling of frustration, disappointment and anger.

The cause of all this unpleasantness stems wholly from the dictatorship form of government that now exists on our Island.

One man tells us this is law; we abide by it, only to be told by the next that it was only a "Gentleman's Agreement".

One man stops all building - no more accommodation, no more shops, no more restaurants. The next man allows shops and a restaurant to be built, because he feels that he doesn't only have to look

after us of Pitcairn lineage but he has to look after those who come here to invest money - regardless of the fact that tourist figures are falling and regardless that some of the privileged people have dabbled into everything that's going on Norfolk Island. Privileges, it seems to me, are even being given to non-residents, even though we have amongst us quite capable and qualified people to suit the jobs. The last, if not the least, as I am led to believe, is the man who was offered the job running our Tourist Bureau and who, I believe, was only appointed on Thursday night and yet even the birds flying around in my trees knew at least a week ago.

I sincerely hope that visitors realise what is causing this rift. Please believe me when I say 'You are welcome and please come back again'.

ELVA

...AND A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hon. R. J. Ellicott, Q. C., M. P.
Minister for Home Affairs
CANBERRA

Sir,

On February 3rd the weekly "Norfolk Islander" carried an anonymous letter which urged readers to value their heritage, stand up for their rights, and resist the passage of the Norfolk Island Bill.

Several days later the Administrator of the Island called in the editor, Tom Lloyd, and notified him that certain parts of the letter were - in the opinion of the Legal Adviser - seditious. The Government's next step was not clear to Mr. Lloyd, but he understood he was under scrutiny

and that he might be charged and brought to trial.

Sedition is one of the few high crimes against government. My understanding is that it means exciting disloyalty against the Queen and the constitutional government, and inciting people to illegal actions, as a means of overthrowing the government. When an allegation of sedition is made by an appointee of the Governor-General, in the formal setting of a territory's highest executive office, an editor is in grave trouble.

The letter in question argues that Norfolk should be governed by itself in association with Australia - a condition which entails a stable monarchy and Commonwealth. Neither the letter nor Mr. Lloyd is seditious by any stretch of imagination.

There is a comic side to all this - the mental picture of His Honour sensing in the pages of a weekly paper a threat to the very foundations of the Commonwealth, and leaping fearlessly to their defense.

But something quite uncomic, and quite serious, is involved.

I think it is unlikely that the Administrator was motivated by a desire to defend constitutional government. I think his purpose was intimidation of the press - an effort to frighten an editor, and make him then play down anything critical of the Norfolk Island Bill or of the Government's intentions to annex Norfolk. This tactic is commonplace in despotic countries. As a matter of fact it works. And this is a politically crucial time on Norfolk.

If official intimidation of the press appears within the Australian Government, I think it ought to be noted and checked.

Believing that such a thing has occurred here, I am asking the Australian Journalists' Association to inquire, and hope you will inquire also.

ED HOWARD

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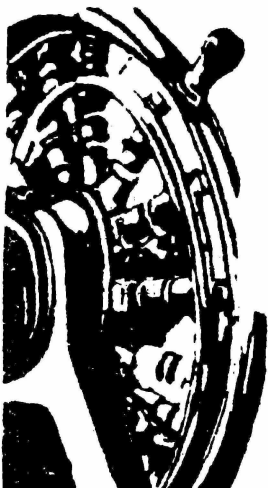
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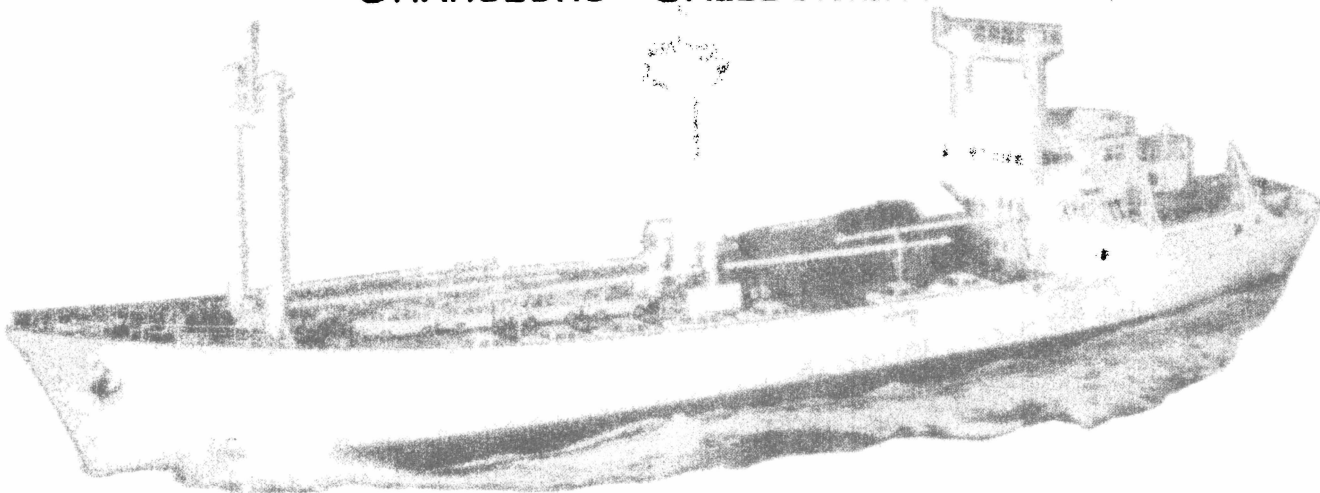
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PUBLIC MEETING CABLES REJECTION OF THE BILL, SUPPORT FOR SOCIETY

OPPOSITION TO the Norfolk Island Bill 1978 was virtually unanimous, and sometimes angry, at a public meeting held at Rawson Hall on January 16th.

The meeting had been called by the Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers, which had already taken a formal position of opposition to the Bill.

In posters and newspaper advertisements announcing the meeting, the Society said "Perhaps you believe the Society in opposing the Bill is barking up the wrong tree. If so, we'd like to hear about it."

An estimated 260 people attended the meeting, including over one-fourth of the Island's 800-odd electors.

Following a wide range of comments about the Bill, the meeting voted overwhelmingly to reject the Bill and to support the Pitcairn Society's strong resolution on January 8th. There were no dissenting votes, and no one at the meeting voiced any support for the Bill - an extraordinary response, at a Norfolk public meeting.

Five of the six elected Councillors on the Island at the time attended the meeting. As the public feeling became clearer and clearer from individual comments, interjections and applause, four of the Councillors made strong statements in support of the right of self-determination for the Island.

President of Committees Bill Blucher said that Council's aim was to create self-government, with self-determination for the people. He said Council had not yet stated its position on the Bill, because Councillors had not yet heard enough from the people.

He said that the Bill as tabled in Parliament did not include some elements that Council had asked for in its private negotiating sessions with the Minister.

Councillor Blucher also said that he wondered what other electors, not present at the meeting, thought about the Bill - but later told the crowd that he thought the meeting was a good indicator of what the majority wanted, and that the resolutions passed would be taken seriously.

Councillor Lisle Snell had been the first of the Councillors to declare his position to the meeting. He said he would pledge and promise to vote in accordance with the majority view of

the community. He added that he had been receiving comments from many sources, and that so far he had ten foolscap pages covered with objections people had to the Bill, and only two pages of comments in favour of the Bill, which had come from the Australian Government.

Councillor Geoff Bennett said he had never before seen resolutions passed unanimously at a public meeting on the Island, and said "my mind is made up".

Councillor Greg Quintal indicated his position early in the meeting, when one speaker asked "What does the Government want to do or take from Norfolk Island?" Councillor Quintal called out "The whole ruddy lot!" and there was a round of laughter and applause.

Later in the meeting Councillor Quintal said "I will not accept the Bill unless we have the right of self-determination... with self-determination we can decide our own future and I would support the majority of the people... the Australian Government is only a minor, little, small pebble so far as I'm concerned - and they do not regard us as that much to them."

Selections from public comments at the meeting:

Bill Underwood said the Island had possibly the best Council for many years. He said that they all were men of high integrity and common sense, and were devoted to the welfare of all on Norfolk - and that he could not understand how they could have let themselves be "bamboozled" into holding all their discussions with Mr. Ellicott in secret.

Ken Nobbs said that there were extensive exclusions of Norfolk rights in the Bill, including health, land use and social welfare. It had been Council policy for years to care for these matters, but that suddenly it seemed Canberra considered Council no longer responsible.

He said that the exclusion of any mention of Pitcairner rights in the Bill smacked of the idea that the Pitcairners no longer existed. This was supposedly because of Australia's Racial Discrimination Act, he said - but that was "hogwash". "It's because they don't want Norfolk Island to be distinct," he said.

Norfolk had been given to the Pitcairn people in 1856 by Queen Victoria, he pointed out, and administered on that basis for 120

years. He said Norfolk is "ethnically and culturally different from Australia - and thank the Lord for that!" The meeting interrupted him with loud applause.

Richard Bataille, a former President of Committees, said the Bill would set up a much more costly form of government. He said that on the mainland any proposed constitutional change had to be put to the voters, and could not be passed by elected representatives. He thought Council should do its best to demand a referendum.

Those who were in favour of the Bill - "the Commonwealth", he added - should recognise that it was up to them to give publicity to good aspects that might exist in the Bill, and try to persuade the people to accept it.

Later in the meeting he proposed a resolution that Council should ask again for a referendum, before the Bill was debated further in Parliament. Some speakers felt such a request would fail, and simply lose valuable time, and the motion failed to get adequate support from the meeting.

Margaret Underwood said that the Bill was dangerous to Norfolk, and very little time remained before Parliament might pass it without the Island's consent. "Councillors should get going," she said, adding that in her view "the Councillors have sold us down the river."

Peter Middleton proposed the first resolution of the evening, which appears below. He described the Executive Council government, as set up in the Bill, as "a star-chamber government", and said the Bill was "a travesty" of genuine self-government.

George Plant supported Peter Middleton's resolution, and said the Island could do nothing until the Bill was halted to allow more public discussion. He said there should be more public meetings, and that the whole subject of the Island's future form of government should be brought "out in the open".

Alan Payne proposed the second resolution of the evening, expressing the community's full support for the stand taken by the Pitcairn Society on January 8th. He said he was a mainlander who had lived on Norfolk for 13 years, and that his only interest was that justice be done. "In democratic countries, people have

the right to censure the government," he said. "This provides a measure of control over the bureaucracy. We will have no such right under the Bill." With few exceptions - mostly visitors to the Island, who were not entitled to vote - almost every hand in the hall went up in support of the resolution.

Elva Yager said she thought it was "time to stop mucking around" and that the people ought to prevent the Bill being passed "even if we have to mudny".

Mera Martin said she thought the resolutions passed by the meeting should be sent not only to senior Australian Government men but also to "the U.N., and others - as many as we can". The Australian Parliament, she believed, would simply sweep the whole Norfolk situation "under the mat".

Ray Spreag appealed to the meeting "not to write off the Council you elected," and introduced the one item of hot controversy in the meeting by referring to a "minor, racist people like the Pitcairners".

Ken Nobbs interjected "I object to that." He said that Norfolk was the homeland of the Pitcairners, by right of grant from the Queen. "Too many residents want a bob each way," he said, adding that it would be a mark of who really cared about Norfolk if people were asked to make up their minds where they stood, and cut off their residential status in mainland Australia if necessary.

At the end of the meeting, Ray Spreag moved that there be a vote of confidence in the Council. From the mood of the meeting, it appeared that such a vote would have split the group - and a vote of no confidence in Council seemed a definite possibility.

Ken Nobbs called a point of order, which was that the rules adopted for the meeting prohibited discussion of anything but the Bill. Chairman John Brown accepted the point of order, and adroitly suggested that support for the Council might be shown simply by acclamation.

There was a restrained round of applause for Council, and the meeting closed with thanks to the Pitcairners' Society for having called it.

The meeting resolved that the full text of the resolutions passed should be sent by cable to the Minister, to the head of the back-bench Parliamentary committee, and to the United Nations Association.

FULL TEXT OF TELEGRAMS SENT FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING TO MR ELLICOTT, THE BACK-BENCH PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, AND THE U.N. ASSOCIATION

"At a Public Meeting held in the Rawson Hall, Norfolk Island last night I was appointed Chairman and the following resolutions, among others, were passed.

"Firstly, that this Public Meeting of Norfolk Islanders rejects the Norfolk Island Bill 1978 in its present form on the grounds that:

"(a) It does nothing to guarantee the implementation of their just desire for self government;

"(b) It continues the status of Norfolk Island as a non-self governing Territory of Australia;

"(c) It provides for a type of cabinet government which is not consistent with open government and incompatible with the idea of democracy;

"(d) It continues the form of government of Norfolk Island as advisory only, with real power in the hands of the Australian Government, its officials and representatives,

"and it requests that the terms of this resolution be conveyed to the Minister, the Chairman of the Liberal Country Party Back Bench Committee and the Secretary of the United Nations Association of Australia.

"Secondly that this meeting opposes the Norfolk Island Bill 1978 in its present form and it supports the resolution adopted by the Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers as of 8th January 1979.

"Thirdly that the contents of both motions be cabled to the Minister and the United Nations representative in Sydney.

"Each of the above motions were passed without dissent. A confirmatory letter containing more detail will follow.

"The Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers resolved on Monday 8th January 1979 that it opposes the

Norfolk Island Bill 1978 in its present form and asks the Australian Parliament to amend the Bill so as to incorporate the following changes which the Society considers to be essential:

"1. That Norfolk Island should be recognised and formally reconfirmed as the homeland of the Pitcairn race, which it has been since 1856; and that Australia should acknowledge that it has no right to deprive persons of Pitcairn descent of full freedom to live in their homeland; and that any restriction of this freedom should be made only by a representative body elected solely by the electors of the island.

"2. That Norfolk Island's existing status as a separate and distinct settlement in the British Commonwealth, which was established by the British Government in 1856, should be formally recognised and reconfirmed; and that Norfolk Island should not be dealt with as if it were an Australian Possession; and that the sea and seabed surrounding Norfolk Island should be recognised as belonging to Norfolk Island, to the same distance and in the same manner as is generally thought right for inhabited islands elsewhere in the world.

"3. That the people of Norfolk Island should be formally acknowledged to possess the right to give consent, or withhold consent, on any constitution for the island and on any change thereto.

"4. That Norfolk should be formally acknowledged to have the sole right to levy taxes and other imposts on the island, and the sole right to determine how such moneys raised on the island shall be spent, through a representative body elected solely by the electors of the island.

"Signed John Brown Norfolk Island."



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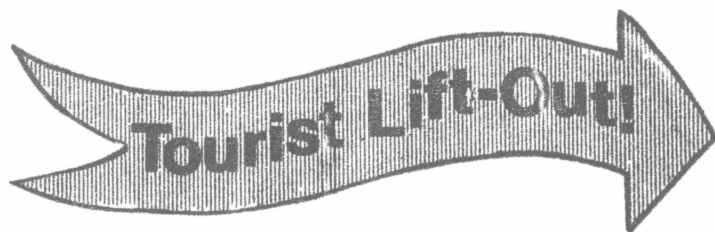
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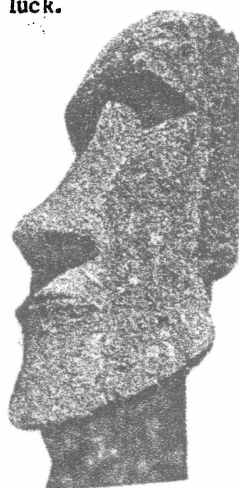
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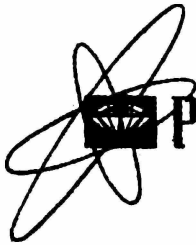
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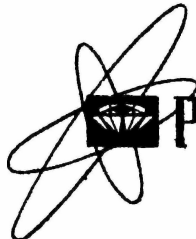
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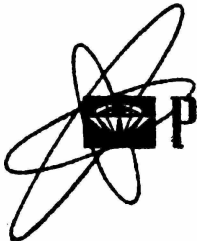
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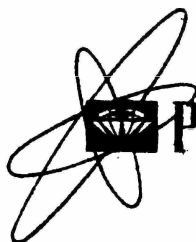
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5 CLUES TO UNDERSTANDING NORFOLK

NORFOLK ISLAND seems to many visitors to be a simple, pleasant and uncomplicated place.

But if you care to look more deeply, and to gain a more informed understanding of the Island, you will find it is as intricate as a piece of symphonic music.

If you are one of those more perceptive visitors, wanting to go home with a grasp of what the Island is really all about, here is a series of clues to help start you off. As you talk with people on Norfolk you'll doubtless hear disagreement on some of the opinions given: Islands attract individualists, with their own strong ideas about many things. But the subjects are keys to knowing Norfolk.

1: THE PEOPLE

There are about 1200 full-time, permanent residents. About 500 are "Islanders" - direct descendants of the Pitcairn settlers. There are about 300 Australians and 300 New Zealanders who have settled here; over 100 of them have married Islanders, and so the Pitcairn families all told amount to slightly over half the population. The Pitcairners hold over half of the Island's freehold and Crown lease land, and well over half of the youngsters at the Norfolk school are Pitcairn descendants.

In addition there are normally several hundred people, many of them young, from Australia and New Zealand, who are here on six month "work permits" to fill jobs that can't be filled on the Island - there being virtually no unemployment among the permanent population. Many of these work for relatively low wages in the tourist industry, and regard their stay on Norfolk as a sort of working holiday.

The original Pitcairn settlers came to Norfolk in 1856, having been told that they could have the entire Island and its buildings to divide among themselves or to share in common. British and, later, Australian authorities for generations afterward maintained that there had been a misunderstanding about this, but the Pitcairners have always been adamant about the original promise. The resulting conflict has led to protests, petitions to the Queen, inquiries and Royal Commissions over the generations. The official decisions have always gone against the Pitcairners - but a set of documents from the 1850s,

arranged in sequence for the first time in 1977 (and available in reprint form at shops on the Island) leave little doubt that the Pitcairners have been right all along.

Islanders regard themselves as a distinct race, have their own traditions and customs, and speak their own language among themselves. They have a strong religious tradition, as well as a gentle, good-natured Polynesian outlook on life. They are past masters at sizing up "mainlanders" quickly and accurately - and at tagging nicknames, some of them hilarious, on likely candidates.

2: FINANCES

Few visitors realise that Norfolk has its own independent budget (which is in the black), and, rather than having a national debt, has a surplus from past years invested in the bank at interest.

Norfolk's public income comes from modest customs duties on most imports; from the sale of Norfolk postage stamps; from the operation of a local government monopoly on the import and sale of beer, wine and spirits; and from a range of fairly simple taxes and fees on individuals, visitor departures, companies, cars and so forth. There is no stamp duty and no income tax for genuine residents. The Island was used by Australians as an income tax haven for some years, but changed Australian laws ended this in 1973.

Australia makes an annual grant of \$126,000 to the Island. This is about adequate to cover the salaries and expenses of the three Australian officers who are sent to fill the key positions in the Island's local Administration.

Norfolk's public income pays for public works, roads, administration salaries, the hospital, school, and a 3-man police force. Doctors, a dentist, schoolteachers and police officers are selected and posted here through the much-appreciated assistance of the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments, but Norfolk pays their fares and their salaries while they are here.

Australia's system of social welfare benefits does not extend to Norfolk. The Island has a tradition of looking after its own. A weekly "pension" of \$35 is paid by the Island to a small number of elderly persons

who need some supplement to their personal and family resources. There is no one on Norfolk who is alone, unknown and in need.

Australia pays for the upkeep of the Norfolk airport, which is part of Australian international air agreements, and for the meteorological office, which is a reporting station only, sending data needed by the Commonwealth weather forecasting system. Australia has also paid much of the cost of restoring the historic buildings at Kingston, which are regarded as part of Australia's colonial history.

3: THE RUINS

The ruins and restored buildings at Kingston are left from a by-gone era in the Island's history, when Norfolk served for a time as a prison.

They are remarkable for two quite different reasons.

One is that they were handsomely and simply designed and laid out in Georgian style, and are one of the world's few examples of a Georgian village that has not been added to and adulterated with more recent buildings of later styles. Because many of the Kingston buildings are in use today - with more to be put to use as they are restored - the village has a current life, rather than the disembodied, musty feeling of empty relics of the past.

It is possible, with guidance from a local resident who knows or with some study of available books, to piece together many aspects of how a remote community lived 150 years ago. Bread, for example, was made from grain grown on the Island and then ground - in a windmill if the wind was blowing (its foundations can be seen out at the end of the golf course); in a watermill if the water was flowing (the mill-pond and mill ruin are in Watermill Valley); and in a man-operated crank mill (near the Kingston pier) when that was necessary.

The other remarkable aspect of the Kingston ruins is that they call to mind unspeakable cruelty of man to man, in the Queen's name, long ago. Norfolk Island was for a time a prison designed to provide, intentionally, "the harshest punishment short of death", and often it did not stop short. The prison settlement was abandoned, partly because of its foul reputation, in the mid 1850s.

The prisoners' three-storey gaol

building is gone. The Pitcairners found use for the other Kingston buildings, but the gaol was an offence to their eyes. It was gradually pulled to pieces, with the stone and coral used for other buildings, or as rubble for surfacing the Island's roads. The walls surrounding the prisoners' compound still stand, but the salt spray and the sun have bleached away much of their grimness. Today they are a site of enjoyment, providing shelter from the wind for immense Island picnics that are held from time to time.

4: COLONY STATUS

Norfolk Island is one of the few remaining colonies in the English-speaking world. This status has become an embarrassment to Australia. The Island's form of administration was officially proclaimed as "outmoded and inappropriate" by Australia in 1975, and is contrary to United Nations covenants endorsed by Australia, as well as being a strange anachronism in an age when free people are expected to have democratic government.

Norfolk has its own distinct laws and regulations, but these are made by Australia, and Australian law does not allow the people of the Island to vote for those who make the laws. The government is not answerable to the people.

There is an elected Norfolk Island Council. Its Chairman is the Australian-appointed Administrator. Legally the Council has no power except to offer advice to the Administrator, which he can listen to or ignore. As the only elected representatives of the people of the Island, however, the Councillors have done their best to get democratic government restored to Norfolk. In 1977 they made an appeal to the United Nations to prevent Australia from annexing the Island without consent, and early in 1978 they voted to support a resistance movement by people of the Island to fight off forced annexation. The conflict was suddenly cooled off in May, 1978, by an Australian government announcement that some self-government would be restored to the Island, and that it would not be annexed into the Australian system.

Oddly, the people of Norfolk did have democratic self-government from the time of the Pitcairn settlement in 1856 until 1896, when it was terminated by an autocratic Governor of New South Wales, acting beyond his authority. The Island nevertheless remained a "separate and dis-

inct settlement" in the British Empire. It has never been ceded to Australia, but since 1914 it has been technically "a territory under the administration of Australia."

In 1976 the Island was angered when Australia refused to allow a Norfolk Islander, who was heading the local government as Deputy Administrator, to be confirmed as Administrator. He resigned from his post, and some time later was appointed Administrator of one of Australia's two other colonies, the Cocos Islands.

The Island's current Administrator, who is hopefully the last in the 82-year sequence of colonial appointees, is Mr. D. V. O'Leary. He formerly had been the third-ranking officer in Australia's "secret service", A. S. I. O. He has not indicated that he sees anything outmoded or inappropriate about the range of undemocratic powers an Administrator has over the Island and its people, and has sought to extend them rather than using them with restraint. He is a man of good grooming and authoritarian manner. He occasionally has cowed the elected Council by sheer force of personality, and has been known to confiscate film from the camera of a tourist snapping pictures of the exterior of his official home, Government House.

Around the Island he may be seen driving (or being driven, when a ceremonial occasion permits) in a white Ford sedan provided by the Commonwealth. It can be recognised by its registration plate, A-1, and by the miniature gold flagstaff which Mr. O'Leary arranged to have sent from Australia and affixed to its bonnet.

5: THE FUTURE

In view of the Whitlam government's decision that Norfolk's form of administration was "outmoded and inappropriate" the Commonwealth arranged for a Royal Commission to be set up in 1975. Its purpose was to advise on Norfolk's constitutional relationship to Australia, and what the Island's future form of government might be.

Most Norfolk witnesses said they thought the Island was faring reasonably well, and wanted only democratic government. The Nimmo Report - the Report of the Royal Commission - was disdainful of the Island and said it should be tacked onto the Canberra electorate and made part of the Australian governmental system. No referendum should be allowed on this, said the Report - the people of Norfolk were too confused to

appreciate the issues involved.

The Island reacted with astonishment and anger. The Norfolk Council presented a detailed and closely-reasoned reply to Judge Nimmo's 74 recommendations.

The Commonwealth ignored the Island's views, and ridiculed "solemn declarations" signed by about two-thirds of the electors saying that they wanted Norfolk to have its own laws, benefits and taxes rather than being integrated into the Commonwealth.

Council's appeal to the U.N. made it clear that Norfolk simply would not wear the Nimmo recommendations.

In Dec., 1977, a new Minister - R. J. Ellicott, Minister for Home Affairs - took responsibility for the Island. So far as Norfolk was concerned he was welcomed as a saviour, because in 1975, as a private Queen's Counsel, he had collaborated in a carefully-researched legal opinion which said that Norfolk was separate and distinct from Australia, and that Australia had an obligation to administer Norfolk solely for the benefit of the territory and its inhabitants.

As Minister in charge, Mr. Ellicott suddenly announced a radically different view. "This is Australia," he told people on Norfolk. "You are Australians."

The Norfolk Island Bill 1978 - the Commonwealth's alternative to the Nimmo Report - was tabled in the Australian Parliament in November, 1978. The Norfolk Council had had several meetings with Mr. Ellicott about its form, but once the Bill was made public the people of Norfolk saw that it would let them govern little more than "roads, drains and noxious weeds", and objected to it.

On February 7th, 1979, the Council voted 8-0 that the Bill was not acceptable because it did not grant a large enough measure of self-government, and invited more talks with Mr. Ellicott.

What the great majority of residents appear to want is for Norfolk to have the acknowledged right of internal self-government in association with Australia, with Australia retaining full rights on most matters of an international nature. This would be comparable to the relationship between New Zealand and two of its former colonies, the Cook Islands and Niue, except that New Zealand accepts the necessity for providing millions of dollars in yearly support for them, and Norfolk wants to continue supporting itself.

CAMERALINES

Don't make the mistake of taking the OM-1 and OM-2 lightly



It's true, of course, that Olympus SLRs are some 35% smaller and lighter, than average 35mm single lens reflex cameras. But that's only part of the story.

Because we not only designed them to be more compact — we designed them to be better.

That meant backing them with a comprehensive system specially geared to the professional: some 30-odd compact lenses of incredible quality,

from fisheye to

macro to ultra-tele; motor drive so light that the combination of camera/motor weighs no more than the average camera alone (and it can deliver up to 5 frames per second with normal mirror return).

Also, there are 12 interchangeable focusing screens; close-up, micro- and astro-adapters; Recordata Back; auto-winder, and other accessories in profusion.

Still sceptical? Here are some convincing details.

THE OM-1: Still one of the lightest and most compact true system 35mm single lens reflexes, with drastically reduced noise and shock thanks to a unique air damper shock absorbing system and ball bearing trains. It also features a viewfinder that's 30% bigger and about 70% brighter than the average, a silk-smooth film transport that requires almost no effort and a precise match-needle through-the-lens exposure control.

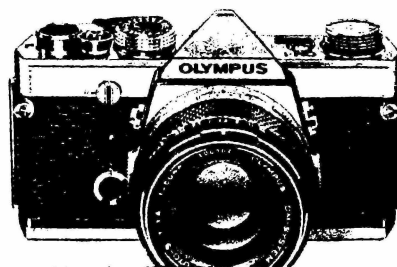
THE OM-2: With every advanced feature of the OM-1 (and only 10 gms heavier), it includes the world's most advanced automatic exposure system. Incredibly rapid silicon cells LOOK BACK at a random pattern on the shutter curtain to measure the light ON THE FILM PLANE. At slower speeds, it will actually read the FILM EMULSION ITSELF! This means the OM-2 will actually change shutter speed should the light change during slower exposures —

even down to a full 60 seconds. And it will operate **AUTOMATICALLY**

up to 5 frames per second on motor drive, as well as control the Olympus auto-flash **THROUGH THE LENS** for unheard of flash accuracy. On Manual, it operates just like the OM-1.

All of which might well make the OM-1 and OM-2 the most heavy-weight lightweights you'll ever clap your eyes on. And the most welcome photographic equipment paradox ever.

12 MONTHS GUARANTEE



OLYMPUS

The *Norfolk Island*

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

NOTABLE DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE NORFOLK PEOPLE

February 27th, 1856: Governor Denison's full plan for re-settling the Pitcairners on Norfolk was sent off to the British Government. They were to have all the land on Norfolk, and to continue governing themselves. The Government gave full approval to the plan.

March 5, 1829: John Adams, the last of the "Bounty" mutineers, died on Pitcairn.

March 7, 1831: All the Pitcairners were removed from their island and re-settled in Tahiti. The move was a disaster, and they soon found their way back to Pitcairn.

18

- Church services
- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

19

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

20

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Nlk)
- C'dant's Din (G)

21

- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8pm)

25

- Church services
- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

26

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

27

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Nlk)
- C'dant's Din (G)

28

- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8pm)

4

- Church services
- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

5

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

6

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Nlk)
- C'dant's Din (G)

7

- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8pm)
- Norfolk Island Council meets (A-2pm)

11

- Church services
- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

12

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

13

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Nlk)
- C'dant's Din (G)

14

- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8pm)

CALENDAR

THUR

15 February

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

FRI

16

- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

SAT

17

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

22

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

23

- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

24

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

1 March

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

2

- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

3

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

8

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

9

- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

10

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

15

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

16

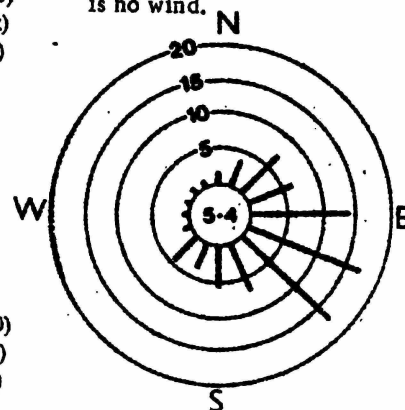
- Housie (RSL8pm)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

17

- SDA service
- House (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

WIND ROSE

The length of each of the 16 lines shows the percentage of the time the wind blows from that direction this month. The figure in the centre shows what percentage of the time there is no wind.



LOCATIONS

- A -Admin. Bldg.
- BP -Burnt Pine
- BC -Bowling Club
- BCP -Bicentennial Park
- BP -Branka House
- C -Catholic Church
- CE -All Saints Church
- EB -Emily Bay
- G -Garrison Rest'r't
- GC -Golf Club
- H -Hospital
- KO -Kingston Oval
- Lib -Library
- LC -Leagues Club
- LK -Lime Kiln BBQ
- M -Museum Bldg.
- MC -Methodist Church
- MRT -Mission Rd. Talkies
- Nlk -Hotel Norfolk
- Pds -Paradise Hotel
- Ph -Pitcairners Hall
- RH -Rawson Hall
- RSL -RSL Club
- Scl -School
- SDA -7th Day Adv. Hall
- SP -South Pacific Hotel
- StB -St. Barnabas Chapel
- SW -Simon's Water
- VV -Valley View Rest'r't
- YC -Youth Centre

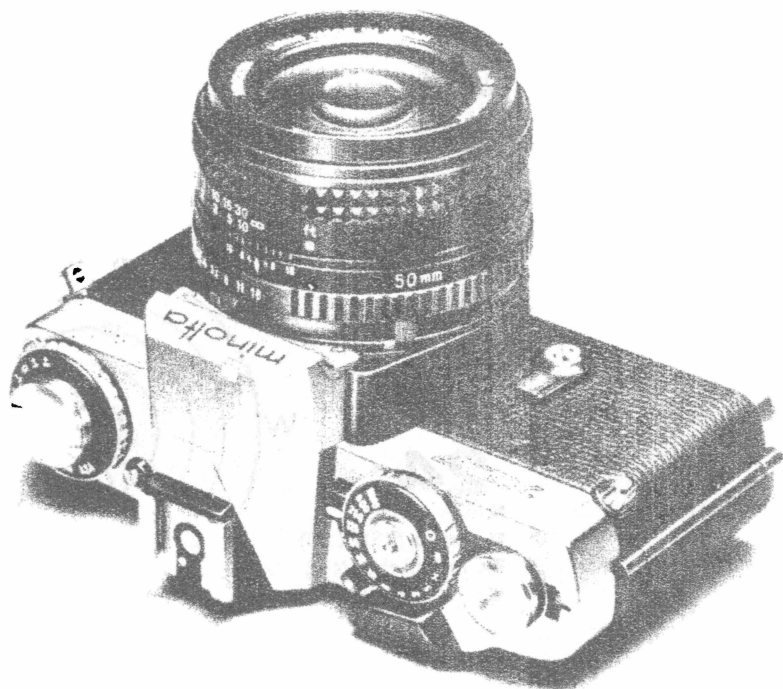
AGFA'S DISTRIBUTORS
ON NORFOLK ARE

CAMERALINES



AGFA-GEVAERT

Choose the right camera to suit your skills. And the shots you want.



Above : Minolta call their XD-7 the first 'fail-safe' camera.

Until now, advanced electronic cameras have offered aperture or shutter priority. Never both.

Minolta's new XD-7 offers less chance of error than ever before, along with easier handling and versatility of operation.

You can use it in any of three ways :

Set it to automatic shutter priority and the circuits will set the lens for the aperture needed. Control is completely electronic for the first time ever.

Set it to automatic aperture priority, and the computer will vary the shutter speed to get proper exposure. Either way, you'll see what's happening in the viewfinder. Though you're reading at full aperture, the camera will complete a 'stopped down' reading and correct your speed or *f* stop to produce a correct exposure as you squeeze the 'go' button. The third way is to set everything manually. You've got an unbelievably bright viewing screen, fast Rokkor lens, multiple exposure capability and quiet operation.

You can add the smallest and lightest SLR motor drive ever made, the Minolta Auto Winder D. (*Shoot every half second.*) And the Electroflash 200X, complete with wide angle diffuser. See the XG-2 camera, too. Just as compact; not as sophisticated.

At right : a unique camera. The Minolta 110 zoom ; still the only one of its kind.

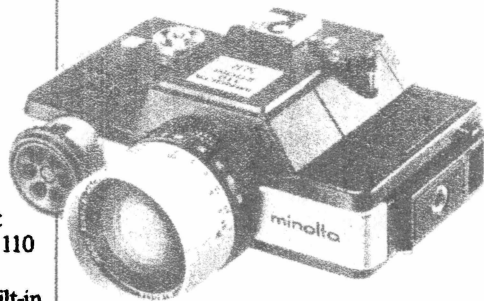
This is the world's first single lens reflex with the convenience of a pocket camera. All you have to do is drop in a 110 cartridge, focus and shoot.

The razor sharp Rokkor lens has a built-in zoom, so you can choose wide angle or telephoto shots of your subject without moving from where you stand. It also has extreme close-up (macro) capability.

When you put the viewfinder to your eye, signals tell you whether the shot you want is possible. If not, you simply change setting until the camera signals 'OK'.

Shutter speeds are from 10 seconds to one thousandth of a second, all automatic, but you can over-ride them manually if you like.

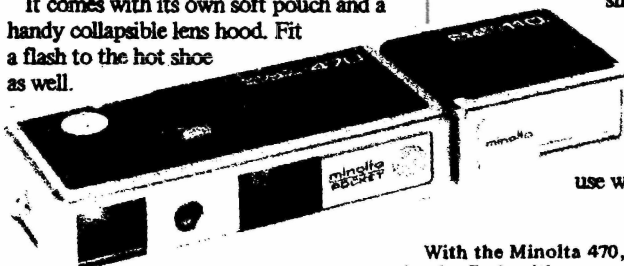
It comes with its own soft pouch and a handy collapsible lens hood. Fit a flash to the hot shoe as well.



Below : the Minolta 470, one of the smallest pocket models yet.

The programmed electronic shutter operates at speeds from 2 to 1/1000 of a second and provides perfect exposures automatically under an unusually wide range of lighting conditions, due in part to the camera's ability to accept high speed ASA 400 film.

Focusing is provided by a continuous slide control and a built-in close-up lens, good down to 50 cm. Lens is a Rokkor 26mm *f*/3.5 (optical glass). The Pocketflash 110 was developed for use with the Minolta 470.



With the Minolta 470, you can take the flash with you or leave it at home...

Minolta

Come to

CAMERALINES

THE ISLAND'S ONLY COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHIC STORE



PATON PLACE

may be out of town but for the discriminating buyer it is a "must". You will find interesting goods such as: -

CLOISONNE WARE - hand enamelled, copper based Vases, Jars, Bowls etc. from Peking

SCOTTISH MOHAIR rugs, blankets, capes, stoles, beret-and-scarf sets by Glen Cree

SCOTTISH KNITWEAR, partner packs, skirt packs, sock-and-tie sets by Munrospun

PHILIPPINE SHIRTS for men, women and children

BLOUSES and cotton dresses

WOOD & IVORY carvings and other souvenirs

Continue along Taylor's road toward Kingston, and 150 yards past Queen Elizabeth Avenue you will find us.
Directly opposite Nimpex.
Phone 2181

HOURS

POST OFFICE: 9am - 12.30pm and 1.15pm - 5pm, Monday - Friday.

TELEPHONES: Local phones operate automatically, 24 hours. Overseas calls can be made at the OTC building in New Cascade Rd.: 9am-9pm Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm Sat., 10am-12.00 and 3pm-6pm Sunday. Charge for 3 minutes: Sydney \$3.75, Auckland \$4.68. There are only two radio circuits and sometimes delays occur. Calls can be booked in advance for a particular time.

TELEGRAMS: Monday - Friday 9am-6pm; Saturday 9am - 2.30pm; Sunday 9am - 2pm. Charge 5¢ a word.

BOND STORE: (at Kingston) 10am-1pm and 2pm - 4pm, Mon-Friday. Branch store at the airport is open for passengers only at arrival and departure time, seven days a week.

DOCTOR: (at N.I. Hospital). By appointment Mon-Fri. Emergencies, telephone 2091 or 2092.

DENTIST: (also at N.I. Hospital). By appointment, Mon-Fri. Telephone 2091 or 2092.

HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS: 11-12, 2-4 and 7-8.30 daily.

BANKS: 10am-3pm Mon-Thurs, open

to 5pm Fri.

LIBRARY: Monday 10-1 and 4-6; Wednesday 10-1; Friday 10-12 and 1-4.

STAMPS: At P.O. or at Island Shop several doors east. For back issues of Norfolk Island stamps, get in touch with Tom Grimshaw, on the Island.

ADMIN: Mon-Fri 9-1 and 1.45-5pm. Accounts, registrar, 10-1 and 1.45-4.

SHOPPING HOURS IN BURNT PINE:

generally 9am-12.30, and 2pm-5.30.

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons almost all shops are closed. A fair number are open Sunday mornings, but not all.

AFTER-HOURS SHOPPING: Trading Post 7.30-9pm Mon-Sat and 9am-7pm Sun; Burns Philp (Middlegate store) 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat. 10am-7pm Sun.

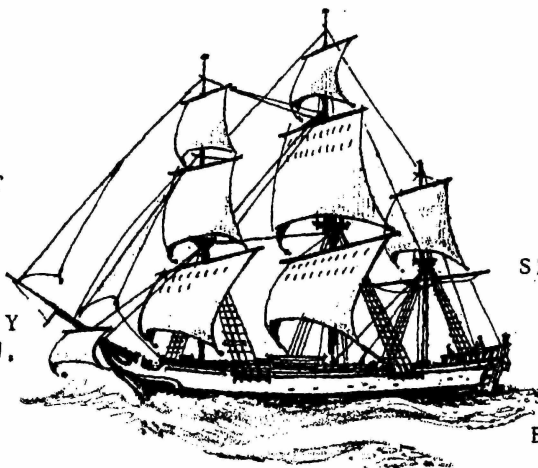
TOURIST BUREAU: (Centre of Burnt Pine) 9-12 and 2-4 Mon-Fri but closed Wed afternoon; 9-12 Sat.

EAST-WEST/AIR N. Z.: Burnt Pine office open 9-5 weekdays, 9-12.30 Wed-Sat.

PETROL STATIONS: There are two. Norfolk Island Motors, at the eastern edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8am-6pm every day but Sunday. Central Service Station, at the western edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-1.30pm Sat, 9-12 Sun. Nights and Sunday afternoons you're out of luck.

"Eat Thy Bread With Joy and
Drink Thy Wine with Merry Hearts"

SOFT LIGHTS
AND PLEASANT
MUSIC ARE
PART OF THE
ENJOYABLE
ATMOSPHERE
OF THE BOUNTY
LODGE TAVERN,
NORFOLK'S
LEADING
LICENSED
RESTAURANT.
ENJOY CHOOSING
FROM OUR FINE



A LA CARTE
MENU -- AND
ENJOY OUR
ATTENTIVE
SERVICE AT THE
COCKTAIL BAR
AND AT YOUR
TABLE.
YOUR EVENING
"ABOARD THE
BOUNTY" WITH
US WILL BE
COMPLETE AND
MEMORABLE.

BOUNTY LODGE TAVERN

OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 7PM. TELEPHONE 2019

NORFOLK RADIO

TRANSMISSION STARTS WITH BREAKFAST SHOW BEGINNING 7AM EVERY DAY BUT SUN
 AUSTRALIAN NEWS REPORTS 7.30, 8.00, 12.30, 1.00, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 8.30
 NORFOLK ISLAND LOCAL NEWS NOTICES 7.40, 8.40, 10.00, 12.00, 1.05

MONDAY

9.15 Clitheroe Kid
 10.45 Morning serial
 11.00 1978 The Year
 That Was
 12.05 World affairs
 1.30 Radio Aust. relay
 7.05 Children's story
 7.30 Sentimental Journey
 (jazz programme)
 8.00 Joyce Grenfell
 9.00 Feature album
 10.30 Close
TUESDAY
 9.15 Travels with Aunt
 10.05 Music from shows
 and films
 10.30 Norfolk Island
 hospital programme
 10.45 Morning serial
 12.05 Ticker tape & Phone
 1.30 Methodist programme
 2.00 Radio Aust. relay

7.45 BBC Rock Line
 8.00 Family hour
 10.00 Top Pops
WEDNESDAY
 9.15 Joyce Grenfell
 10.05 Down memory lane
 10.45 Morning serial
 11.15 Book reviews
 1.30 Radio Aust. relay
 2.00 (on Council day)
 N.I. Council meeting
 4.00 Linda & Hadyn
 7.00 Pick of the week
 (comedy, drama and
 book reviews)
THURSDAY
 9.15 Medical File
 10.05 Mandala
 10.45 Morning serial
 11.00 Requests

12.05 World affairs
 1.30 SDA Programme
 2.00 Radio Aust. relay
 4.30 Ron Glum
 7.00 (on day after Council)
 Council re-broadcast
 7.05 Evening of light class-
 ical entertainment
FRIDAY
 9.15 Dad's Army
 10.05 BBC Rock Line
 10.45 Morning serial
 10.00 Story of Rock
 12.05 Science/Sports
 1.30 C. of E. Programme
 2.00 Radio Aust. relay
 4.00 Janelle
 7.00 Fine Music all around
SATURDAY
 10.00 Mainly pop
 10.30 Aust. & local news

10.45 Top of Pops
 11.30 Steptoe & Son
 12.00 Local news
 12.15 Swop Shop
 1.00 Radio Aust.
 (Saturday sports)
 7.05 Al Reid classics
 8.00 Men of the Sea
 8.45 News from Deutsche
 Welle
 9.00 Country music
 9.45 Light music from
 Holland
 10.30 Wilfred Thomas show
 11.00 Close
SUNDAY
 12.30 Shorty
 3.30 Radio Aust. relay
 5.00 Vibes to do it by
 7.00 Sunday Radio:
 drama, music, etc.

THE DOCUMENTS

"Reproductions of the Eleven Basic Documents of the Pitcairn Settlers' Rights to Norfolk Island" is a 16-page leaflet containing copies from official files of the letters and orders that made Norfolk a separate colony, to be wholly

owned by the Pitcairners. "The authorities" have always said the Pitcairners' claims were nonsense. The documents say differently. \$1 at Burns Philp, the Trading Post, Jensen's and Norfolk Souvenirs. By air to Aust., \$1 to box 94.

THE ISLAND'S NEWEST HOTEL - IN A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN SETTING

HILLCREST

Hotel

Cocktail
Bar and

RESTAURANT

WINE

YOUR FAVOURITE COCKTAILS
 FINE CELLAR OF IMPORTED WINES

DINE

A LOVELY DINING ROOM
 EXTENSIVE A LA CARTE MENU

DANCE

SOFT STEREO MUSIC FOR YOUR
 DINING AND DANCING PLEASURE



OPEN EVERY NIGHT BUT THURSDAYS PLEASE RING 2255 FOR BOOKING
 Eddie Lloyd, Manager

YOU'LL FIND YOUR OWN "Best Buys" depending on your own needs and purse, but The News asked some of the Island's leading importers to pick a few items they believe are particularly good value at the moment. Here's what they told us:

Norfolk Souvenirs: "If people can find our shop - it's hidden behind others - they'll find a lot of good buys; and we are open lunchtimes & Wed. afternoon"

Prentice's: "The gift of a lifetime - genuine Parker pens at about one-half Sydney price, \$2 - \$230."

Prouds: "The famous Wedgwood Jasperware, crystal, china, cufflinks etc. - some well under $\frac{1}{2}$ mainland price."

Martin's Agencies: "Remington electric shavers and hot combs, on sale at good shops in Burnt Pine"

Cameralines: "We have just two Yashica FX-1 kits marked down about 30% from our normal price. Included are the FX-1 SLR with 50mm f1.7 lens and case, a wide-angle lens, telephoto lens, flash & gadget bag - \$399."

The Trading Post: "We're the only place on the Island with same-day Australian & NZ newspapers, every evening, planes allowing."

$$ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC$$

(OPPOSITE SOUTH PACIFIC HOTEL)

C+A BC+A BC+A BC+A BC+A BC+A BC+A BC+A

for
Calculators

Radios & Cassettes
(leading brands)

Model Aircraft

Model Railway
Inspection
Welcomed!

Watches

Construction Kits


ROLEX





ON MAY 8TH, 1978, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED NORFOLK ISLAND'S "SPECIAL SITUATION" AND THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" OF THE PITCAIRN PEOPLE WITH THE ISLAND, ITS TRADITIONS AND CULTURE. THE STATEMENT FORESHADOWED A "SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISLAND." THERE WAS TO BE "CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY". COPIES ON SALE AT ISLAND SHOPS - 50¢.

EVERY EVENING BUT MONDAY

**AUSTRALIAN
National Times
Sunday Telegraph
Herald**

Sunday Herald
FINANCIAL
REVIEW

REVIEW
Courier-Mail
New Zealand
Herald

8 o'clock
SUNDAY NEWS
Womens Weekly
C L E O
GOLDEN BOOKS

PAPERBACK BOOKS
GREETING CARDS
PERSONAL STATIONERY
GIFT STATIONERY
GIFT WRAPPINGS
ACCOUNTING FORMS
ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

NORFOLK ISLAND STATIONERS at the TRADING POST

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO

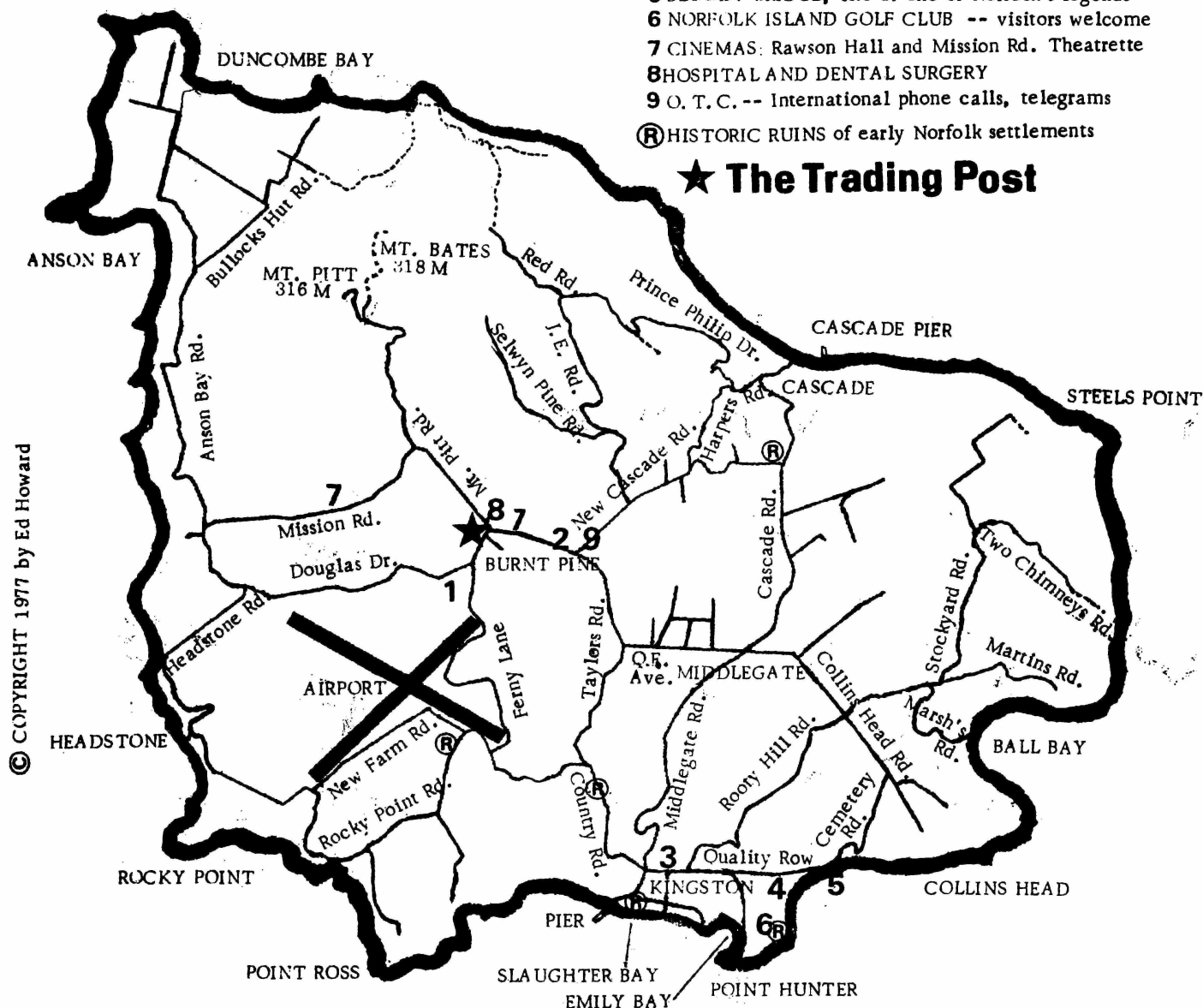
NORFOLK ISLAND

Here are a few of the many things to see on the island. Enjoy them during the day; you can shop late at the Trading Post

- 1 AIRPORT TERMINAL and Air Cargo office
- 2 SHOPPING CENTRE, Post Office, Banks, Tourist Board

- 3 ISLAND ADMINISTRATION ; Bond Store for spirits
- 4 CEMETERY -- touching inscriptions on old headstones
- 5 BLOODY BRIDGE, site of one of Norfolk's legends
- 6 NORFOLK ISLAND GOLF CLUB -- visitors welcome
- 7 CINEMAS: Rawson Hall and Mission Rd. Theatre
- 8 HOSPITAL AND DENTAL SURGERY
- 9 O. T. C. -- International phone calls, telegrams
- (R) HISTORIC RUINS of early Norfolk settlements

★ The Trading Post



© COPYRIGHT 1977 by Ed Howard

All roads lead to the complete holiday mini-mart --

THE TRADING POST

Open Every Day 7.30 AM - 7 PM - Friday till 9 PM SUNDAY OPEN 9am

We want to help you make the most of your time on Norfolk so we carry freshly-baked Norfolk Island bread...eggs...teas and coffees...a complete range of tinned foods...frozen meats, vegetables, fish, sweets, pastries and 'heat-n-serve' items...soft drinks...biscuits, crackers and savouries...ice cream...imported cheeses...lollipops...magazines...batteries...cigarettes...wrapping paper...personal and gift stationery...greeting cards...bug sprays...toothpaste and medicine cabinet items...novelties...mainland newspapers...tin openers...candles...first aid requirements...olives, pickles, nuts and condiments...picnic supplies...games...artists' requisites...gourmet foods...sliced luncheon meats...fresh fruits and vegies, when Norfolk has them...needles and cotton, and almost anything else you've forgotten, every day of the week, early & late.

WHY THE N.I. BILL IS UNACCEPTABLE

NORFOLK SHOULD be self-governing, in free association with Australia - that was the unanimous position taken at a momentous Norfolk Island Council meeting on February 7th.

All eight Councillors strongly supported a resolution informing the Minister that the Norfolk Island Bill 1978 does not provide a sufficient measure of self-government, and asking that discussions with the Minister be continued to work out an acceptable form of self-government in association with Australia.

In clear, often lengthy statements each Councillor put his individual views on the Island's present situation, the shortcomings of the Government's Bill, and specific provisions that would be necessary to establish an acceptable form of government for the Island.

All were in agreement that a workable plan of self-government would take some time to be perfected, and several Councillors made the point that legislative and executive powers might be transferred progressively, over a period of as long as five years.

But they wanted the end result agreed on in advance, with a timetable for the progression. They were unwilling to accept the part-way measures proposed in the Bill, with no assured plan for development to full self-government.

"We would be foolish to accept a very small part of self-government such as the Bill contains," said Councillor Greg Quintal. "We should stick where we are, with the very bad kind of government we have at present, and wait until we finally get real self-government."

Here are transcripts of the major sections of the Councillors' statements, which established their formal position.

THE MOTION

"that Council respectfully informs the Minister that the Norfolk Island Bill does not ensure a sufficient measure of self-government for the people of Norfolk Island, and is not acceptable to this Council.

"This Council therefore seeks the continued assistance of the Minister in developing Norfolk Island towards self-government in association with Australia, and asks for further discussions with the Minister."

COUNCILLOR DAVID BUFFETT:

"THE ISLAND COMMUNITY WISHES TO GAIN SELF-GOVERNMENT - NOT INDEPENDENCE, AND NOT INTEGRATION INTO AUSTRALIA"

"The Bill does not provide for full democratic self-government in Norfolk Island, although, to be fair, the complete spectrum of self-government was not expected in the first instance.

"There is, however, no provision or statement which defines areas of responsibility to be finally achieved.

"The three tiers of veto worry many people, e.g. the authority of the Administrator on retained matters; veto of the Minister; and provision for the Governor-General to disallow any law within six months of it being made.

"The authority of only the Administrator to call a meeting of the Executive Council is seen as overpowering. Such meetings should also be able to be called by the Administrator if requested by a specified number of Executive Councillors.

"Many Island persons object to the waters around Norfolk Island to being outside the control of the Island authority. Fishing, and other water activities, are traditional and appropriate to mandatory Island influence.

"The Australian Government has overriding powers on money matters. Supply can be forced over the authority of the Legislative Assembly.

"...I referred earlier, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that discussion in the community has been taking place on the Norfolk Island Bill during the last three months, and opinion has formed.

"I have endeavoured to gain the benefit of opinion from the community. I'm sure my fellow-Councillors have done likewise.

"I therefore now say that the following has been made clear to me, as an opinion of the majority.

"Firstly some basics. The Island community wishes to gain self-government - not independence and not integration into Australia.

"The Island wishes to have a continuing association with Australia.

"There is a preparedness to achieve self-government by stages.

"In a nutshell, people have confirmed they still do want self-government and are happy to have it

progressively.

"As I've said earlier, the Bill does provide a measure of self-government for Norfolk Island and a system by which there can be a smooth transfer of additional legislative and executive authority. These provisions accord with the Minister's statement of 8th May, 1978.

"It has been clearly said to me, however, that the Bill is deficient and that it does not provide a satisfactory level of local responsibility at the point of commencement, and does not provide a clear program to achieve the final goal of self-government.

"Let me clearly state that it is not my intention to repeat the performance of 1960 when the concept of self-government was over-all rejected, for whatever reason, thereby imposing an unsatisfactory method of government for a further period of some 18 years before again having opportunity to remedy the situation.

"It's quite clear that this nettle of self-government for Norfolk Island must be grasped now, and the difficulties in all aspects worked upon and overcome. This has not been achieved yet."

COUNCILLOR LISLE SNELL:

"WHY SHOULD THE COMMONWEALTH CONTROL MONEY WE RAISE OURSELVES ON THE ISLAND?"

"Firstly, why is Norfolk Island classed as a Territory of the Commonwealth and not as it is at present in the Norfolk Island Act 1957/63, and that Norfolk Island be accepted by the Commonwealth as a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth. Why the change in wording if for no specific reason, then, it is asked why should it not remain as is...

"Why have the powers of social welfare, which Norfolk Island has always had a voice in, been taken away? I tried to explain some of the reasons put to us in the closed session of Council but was counteracted with the question 'Don't they trust us any more?'

"Why is land control so reserved when the Governor-General has unreserved power over veto of all matters anyway?

"Does the Australian Government

think so little of the future Assembly that they cannot be trusted to continue the present policy with regard to health and education, therefore must hold on to these matters?

"In the Bill it is possible for Australia to levy taxes on Norfolk, under certain conditions. This seems to be taxation without representation, and my understanding is that this is not regarded as proper and has not been in British countries for 100 or 200 years. It is generally wondered why the Commonwealth feels that this sort of arrangement is necessary.

"It is also wondered why the Assembly will not be able to make its own decisions on spending any money that is raised by taxes here on Norfolk. I can see that if the Commonwealth wants to spend its own money here, that is none of our business. Why should the Commonwealth control money we raise ourselves on the Island?

"The Bill, in Schedule 1, says that Norfolk Island is defined as being only the Island and the rocks here. It is hard to understand the Commonwealth's thinking on why Norfolk should not include the surrounding ocean.

"At the time of the Royal Commission, the question of historical rights of the Pitcairn descendants was placed second on the list of matters to be taken into consideration. It seems that Sir John Nimmo did not satisfy people with his findings on this point, and there has been considerable criticism of this since. In March or so last year, Mr. Elliott said this was just digging up the past, but I think it is very important to the people of Norfolk to know whether the Government accepts Sir John's findings on the Pitcairners' rights or whether the subject shouldn't be looked at again in the light of documents and research that has appeared since his report...

"This Bill gives no indication, or gives no recognition, that Norfolk Island is the homeland of the Pitcairn people who migrated in 1856.

"Why should the Norfolk Islander be placed in the same category as any other race of people who happen to be living on Norfolk Island at this time or wishes to be in the future?

"Can complete faith and protection be placed in the Immigration Ordinance to guarantee the above?

"Why is it necessary that we be re-classified as Australians against our wishes?

"The Minister has said we must

have trust and confidence in one another, but Governments change, Ministers come and go, but Norfolk Islanders will be here forever.

"The Norfolk Islander has for centuries lived off the land and from the sea. It is stressed that we now no longer control our land to the extent that we were promised in 1856, and what eventuated has been a subject of contention ever since."

COUNCILLOR GREG QUINTAL:

"I HAVE NOT COME ACROSS A SINGLE PERSON WHO IS IN FAVOUR OF THE BILL"

Cr. Quintal: "Mr. Chairman, in support of the motion moved by Cr. Blucher, as we are all aware, the vast majority of the electors are not in favour of the Bill, and, indeed, I have not come across a single person who is in favour of the Bill in its present form.

"There probably are some that are in favour but I have not come across them as yet.

"Council is aware that the Minister will be disappointed that the lengthy discussions held in 1978 did not lead to a Bill that was acceptable to the people and also to the Minister or the Australian Government.

"I for one will not accept the Bill in its present form.

"I am hopeful that the Minister will allow Council to re-negotiate for a form of government suitable to our electors. If he refuses to do this, in my opinion, we are far better off to continue in an advisory Council body and keep on working to get real self-government some time in the near future.

"The people deserve self-government, and have been fighting to get it back ever since my grandfather's time.

"We would be foolish to accept a very small part of self-government such as the Bill contains. We should stick where we are, with the very bad kind of government we have at present, and wait until we finally get real self-government.

"It is my honest belief that the Minister will agree to negotiate with the Council. In 1978, the Minister said that the Government's objective was to provide for the development of a responsible form of self-government for Norfolk Island. I do not know - nor does anyone else - what the Minister's reaction will be, but the Bill does not give

us a responsible form of government.

"The United Nations Association of Australia has offered to conduct a poll of a Voluntary Act of Self-Determination. We are grateful for their offer but I do not consider that this is necessary at this stage, as the Minister will - or already knows - that the vast majority of the electors is definitely against the Bill in its present form.

"I'm looking forward to having discussions with the Minister for a suitable form of government."

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN MCINTYRE:

"AFTER A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ANY RETAINED POWERS OTHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE"

"...Our clear goal is self-government in association with Australia. Ultimately that means that all matters will become the direct concern of the Assembly, except Foreign Affairs and Defence, and the only Australian laws which will extend here are those to which the people consent.

"The Bill has been criticised for containing insufficient assurances that this is the direction in which Norfolk will be allowed to travel. The present such assurances as there are, and they do not go as far as I've indicated they should, are found in Government policy statements. The manner in which they're reflected in the Bill permits their implementation in many cases but by no means assures it.

"I do not doubt the good faith of the present Minister, and I appreciate the work which has brought us this far, but people here remember vividly the unsatisfactory - and sometimes wholly oppressive attitude - towards the Island which previous Ministers have entertained in this decade.

"They wish to be protected by clear words against the things that can go wrong when the present Minister is no longer there.

"They seek the surest possible defences against integration and the clearest recognition of Norfolk's status.

"On consideration of all the matters that have been put to me, and of all the discussions that we have had on the Bill, I believe that desirable amendments to the Bill include the following:

"In Section 4, the definition of the Island should be amended to clarify the complete right of the

Island to its surrounding territorial waters and seabed and not just fisheries.

"Secondly, the word 'Administrator' should be changed to 'Commissioner' throughout. The role of Commissioner is well understood in the Pacific community, and it appears to me that the word 'Administrator' is unacceptable to the people here.

"In Section 5 the expression 'Territory of the Commonwealth' should be replaced by the traditional expression 'Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth', to make it clear that Australia is our guardian and not our owner.

"Section 18 must be re-examined to ensure that proposed Australian laws come to the Assembly's notice for comment before they're extended to Norfolk Island. I observe that all the good intentions and streamlined Public Service procedures still failed to draw the Fisheries Amendment Act 1978 to our attention until this January - some five months after it was passed.

"Section 18 should also be re-examined with the view to allowing the Island, in the future, to have final say as to what Australian Acts apply. It is innate in the rights of the people ultimately to choose all the laws they live by.

"In Section 19, I see no reason why it should be beyond the powers of the Assembly to consider the issue of coins.

"In Section 23, I'm well aware of criticism, by people whose opinion I respect, that this Section provides an unnecessary level of control of the Island. The powers of veto over Schedule 3 matters, the powers to make ordinances respecting retained matters, and the power in the Parliament to amend the Act, together should give sufficient authority to Australia's views. The further blanket veto, provided in Section 23, does not seem necessary.

"Section 27 allows the Australian Government to pass ordinances to raise revenue for the fulfilling of its retained responsibilities. This may be justified at the beginning, but, after a transitional period, there should no longer be the power to impose taxation without representation, and there should no longer be any retained powers other than Foreign Affairs and Defence...

"In the Schedules, welfare must be an Assembly power under Schedule 2 from the beginning. A reservation of this power to the Commonwealth is a reservation of the

option to bring in Australian welfare laws at a future time, in the manner of Nimmo. Moreover, it cannot be the case that anyone in Australia could be better qualified than the Assembly to determine the Island's welfare requirements and to meet them. Thirdly, the size of this item in the Island's budget makes it imperative that it be under local control.

"Health, because of its importance and its impact on the budget, should also be one of the Assembly's powers from the outset.

"Other original powers should include the environment, the Island's heritage and mining, and more decisive powers over land policy. There should be no restriction on the powers of the Assembly and the people to take any question to referendum.

"For the future, the Island should look forward to direct responsibility for its communications in association with Australia, including air traffic, shipping and the O.T.C."

COUNCILLOR BRUCE MacKENZIE:

"TO GIVE AWAY NORFOLK'S SEPARATE STATUS -- THE PRICE IS TOO HIGH"

Cr. MacKenzie: "...When we as a Council sat down with the Minister and his assistants last year, it was to discuss the details of self-government which had been announced May last. The discussions were held in private, as suggested by the Minister, for various reasons:

"The Bill which has now been presented to the Australian Parliament is actually the third draft. We considered two drafts in private discussions.

"We sought a number of changes. Some were made, but the Minister dealt with other queries by giving us assurances that such-and-such only was intended. The full force of certain provisions in the draft would not be used against us and have been put there for reserve power for cases of extreme emergency.

"The public have not had the benefit of reading the Minister's statement of intent and policy which, I believe, are a necessary part of a reading of the published draft. I think the Minister's statement made during our discussions should be published, and, now that a motion of this nature has been passed, I hope they will be coming forward.

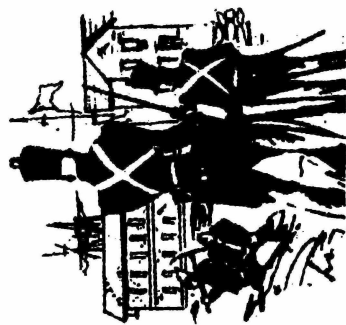
"However, the Minister's assur-

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ances and policy statements made in our meetings with him will hardly be binding upon his successors, and I suppose, in a legal sense, will not be binding even on Mr. Ellicott. Only those things which become the law will be binding and even those things will be open to interpretation.

"The Norfolk Island Bill 1978 gives the proposed Legislative Assembly a wide range of powers on Local Government matters, but its provisions enable the Australian Government to overrule the Assembly if it wants to. The Government can even take away the Assembly's powers if it wants to. Some powers have been extended but are subject to veto; other powers remain the sole domain of the Government.

"Finance and revenue are shared between the Assembly and the Government in effect, but the Government retains sufficient power so that even the Assembly's ability to even legislate in a real way on a matter that is its sole responsibility could be affected.

"In acknowledging this the Minister stated that mutual trust and co-operation was required to make the proposal work.

"The Minister placed great emphasis on a consensus - a coming to agreement between the parties - but consensus can only work between parties that are equal. If one party is subordinate to the other, the resulting decisions will seldom be a consensus - one party will simply be telling the other party what to do.

"After local government was rejected in the early 1960s, an advisory Council of the present type was set up - Cr. Buffett and Cr. Quintal may disagree here but I think I'm right in what I'm saying. There was a clear agreement made with the Administrator of the day that the Council's advice would be accepted on Norfolk Island matters, except when they conflicted with Australian national policy. This was not written into law. It was, in fact, a consensus arrangement, although I don't think that word was used at the time.

"This seemed to operate quite well for a while, then a later Administrator came into conflict with the Council over, as it happened, a matter which was purely a local one. I think it was an extension of the Rawson Hall - anyway, it was around that time.

"The Administrator got his own way on that matter and when it was pointed out to him that the

consensus arrangement had been broken, he pointed to the law and asked to be shown where he acted contrary to it. Of course, he was correct from a legal viewpoint. The consensus arrangement was not law. He had not broken the law, but we learned that promises of one Administrator would not necessarily be kept by another.

"The Administrator's action became a precedent and from that time the consensus arrangement, to me, was dead.

"Coming back to the 1978 Bill, it seems that in not stating a clear intention to provide for self-government, in not recognizing Norfolk Island's separate status in its preamble, acceptance of this Bill in its present form by this Council and the people would amount to acceptance of complete integration in principle.

"That principle, once established, would make it far simpler for a future Australian Administration to absorb Norfolk Island completely into its system of laws and control.

"If the price of receiving of powers to make laws which can be overruled on a range of local matters is to give away Norfolk Island's separate status, then, to me, the price is too high.

"I support the motion."

COUNCILLOR GEOFF BENNETT:

"THE BILL PRETENDS THAT NORFOLK ISLAND IS PART OF METROPOLITAN AUSTRALIA"

"The Bill makes no provision for its ratification by an appropriate act of self-determination on the part of the people of the Island. This is recognized as a key fundamental issue and the issue that led the 8th Norfolk Island Council to the most extreme action taken when it appealed to the United Nations in 1977. It is a fundamental right and cannot be cast aside.

"The Bill pretends that Norfolk Island is part of metropolitan Australia. The fact that Norfolk Island is clearly a non-self-governing territory has been overlooked. Since 30th March, 1914 we have been known as 'Norfolk Island - a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth', but this has been changed to the 'Territory of Norfolk Island - a Territory of the Commonwealth'.

"The Bill gives more weight, in my opinion, to protecting the interests of Australia than protecting the interests of the people of Norfolk

Island. This is illustrated by the overly paternalistic attitude expressed in the Bill - the taking away of the sea and seabed, the failure of allowing the Island in any way to be a separate identity.

"The Bill contains no provision for protection against the repeal, or other forms of legislative degradation of the proposed new status of the Island by a future Government.

"The Bill does not allow the Island the power to raise and expend its revenue. The Bill provides for the control of revenue to remain firmly in the hands of the Administrator and the Minister. That provision is seen as paternalistic distrust of the ability of the Island's elected leaders to be sufficiently responsible. The control of revenue is the very basis of government and, therefore, must rest with the locally-elected authority.

"There is no provision in the Bill for the people of Norfolk Island to play an active role in the development of the South Pacific through direct representation on such regional forums as the South Pacific Commission or Conference. The Island has an unequivocal right as an identity in the South Pacific region, and this right and path to the S.P.C. has been firmly blocked by the Australian Government.

"There is no clear intention that the ultimate goal is full internal self-government. The term 'self-government', used freely by the Minister early last year, now seems to have vanished. Instead we hear and read such terms as 'becoming increasingly involved in their own affairs' - 'run its own affairs to the greatest practicable extent' - 'managing its own affairs'. This is disturbing, raising questions of possible change in attitude, and therefore I would expect a clear statement of the Government's intentions to confirm the Government's genuineness.

"The Bill has taken away any rights we claim to have had to the 200-mile economic zone by defining Norfolk Island as dry land only. We were told by the Minister to assume that Norfolk Island will have such territorial sea attached to it, as is from time to time attached according to international law. It is most disturbing to learn that in recent legislation - assented to in August but not shown to Council till December - had swallowed up the sea surrounding Norfolk Island.

"The Bill disregards the rights of the Pitcairn race and their heri-

tage.

"There are a number of specific things about the Bill, other than those significant shortcomings I have already covered.

"The term 'Administrator' is not appropriate in the context of self-government and should be replaced with the term 'Commissioner'.

"The powers of the Commonwealth Government to intervene and impose laws, even without their reference to the Legislative Assembly, is inconsistent with the concept of self-government.

"The Westminster-type government contained in the Bill, to my way of thinking, is too complex for this tiny Island and should be replaced with a more appropriate system."

COUNCILLOR BRYAN NUNN:

"DO THEY SERIOUSLY THINK SO LITTLE OF THIS COMMUNITY?"

Cr. Nunn: "...The display of distrust inherent in the Bill as to our ability to manage our own internal affairs is very apparent.

"Surely, true internal self-government should assume that all matters of the internal government of the Island should be the consideration of the Island's elected representatives save those it is agreed should remain with the Commonwealth.

"Therefore it is important that any powers stated in the Schedules

to be remaining powers over which the Australian Government will maintain control, whether or not it is envisaged they will eventually pass to Norfolk Island, should have some date included in the Schedules as to when this will happen, or state that they shall remain for the foreseeable future the responsibility of the Australian Government.

"For preference, I would want the Schedules to start by stating the powers which the Australian Government feel they should retain either temporarily or permanently, on the assumption that all other powers will be in the hands of the Island either now or at a shown given date, rather than the present reverse of that situation in which certain powers are accorded to the Island and by implication any powers not mentioned will remain with the Australian Government.

I am most unhappy with the Schedules as they stand in the Bill and the powers over which it is assumed we are not competent to have authority. Do they not think we are better able to judge and are more conscious of our responsibilities to those who, by whatever reason, find themselves in a situation of need? Do they seriously think so little of this community, with all the ethical and moral background of the Pitcairn lineage, that we would be so unfeeling and immoral as to ignore this for the purpose of self-gain?

"Do we not know better than some civil servant in Canberra how we can organize our land usage to ensure that Norfolk Island remains un-

prostituted, for the sake of personal gain, and a place where, for both the Islander or mainlander, remains a place where the basic and fundamental values of not just earning a living but also living a worthwhile life, shall remain paramount?

"Do they not think we care for our sick? - or our young people? - that they must have the ultimate say upon what is for the benefit of these people of our Island?

"Tell me one civil servant in Canberra who is better able to judge our responsibilities than we ourselves on Norfolk Island?

"Do they think the members of Council are so oriented to personal gain that we're not capable of having complete control over what it would cost us to meet up to our obligations and that we are so self-centred as to be unwilling to face up financially to these obligations in the varying means at our disposal?

"How can one accept a situation where the Australian Government tells us what are our obligations, in all their remote wisdom, and then asks us to accept the costs of their decisions?

"I would ask only that every person on Norfolk Island tries, by whatever means, and don't be led solely by any faction or political interest, to understand what they believe to be in the true interests of Norfolk Island and its people for the future. Then, ultimately, let us see how best the will of the majority can be met by our being a truly self-governing territory, linked in trust and friendship with the Commonwealth of Australia.

"I unreservedly support the motion, Mr. Chairman."

COUNCILLOR BILL BLUCHER:

"THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ON NORFOLK ISLAND WANT SELF-GOVERNMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH AUSTRALIA...IF THE MINISTER OR THE CABINET IS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THE ACCURACY OF WHAT I AM SAYING, IT'S QUITE SIMPLE FOR THEM TO CALL A REFERENDUM AND FIND OUT"

"I know the Norfolk Island form of administration has been unsatisfactory for a long time. It's been unsatisfactory to the people; it's been unsatisfactory to the Adminis-

"MUST" READING -

GOD'S GENTLEMEN

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trators; it's been unsatisfactory to the Commonwealth.

"Ten months ago the Australian Cabinet made certain decisions about Norfolk and these were announced by the Minister here in this room on May 8th last year, and he said it was the Government's objective to provide for the development of responsible form for self-government for Norfolk Island. He said there was scope for further consultation with the people of the Island and with Council.

"In between May and October, Council did have those meetings with the Minister to work out the many details of the Norfolk Island Bill 1978. These meetings were cordial and they were very co-operative, and I believe both sides did their best to produce a good result.

"I'll endeavour to form an opinion of how and why we reached that result. It is important to recall that both Council and the Minister were working within the framework of a decision that had already been made by Cabinet. We did not discuss the full range of possibilities open to Norfolk Island because, I believe, the Cabinet decisions limited the Minister and the Council to a very narrow list of subjects.

"The Norfolk Island Bill was introduced in Parliament on November 23rd and has been available to be studied and discussed here on the Island for over two months. Many people found it difficult to read and understand but there has been a considerable amount of material written, to explain the Bill, from the Minister; from this Council; and from the press, both in letters and articles. There has been one public meeting, and a great many private discussions. It's fair to say that all residents were encouraged to consider the Bill with an open mind.

"At this stage, I think public opinion has become quite clear. I think that beyond any reasonable doubt the Norfolk Island Bill proposes a form of government which is not acceptable to the majority of the electors on this Island.

"I'm sure there will be disappointment to the Minister to know the Bill has not been accepted by the majority. Council is also very disappointed that our many months of work did not lead to acceptable results, but there it is.

"I believe that it was probably on the cards from the beginning

that we would not be able to reach an acceptable result. I do not think it was the Minister's fault or Council's fault. I believe it was the fault of the Cabinet decisions that had already been made. The Cabinet had a good intention which the Minister told us was to provide for the development of a responsible self-government here. That is exactly what we all want. Self-government of a kind which is responsible to the people of the Island.

"Unfortunately, while the Cabinet's intentions were good, I believe the decision Cabinet made actually prevented its own good intentions from being reached. So, we still have the original problem to solve which is the development of the form of government which will be acceptable to both the Commonwealth and the majority of the people, and the form of government under which we'll all need to live.

"It will not be easy to do this but I am certain it can be done, and it must be done. It will require continued consultation between Council and the Minister, and a reconsideration by the Cabinet of how its objective can actually be carried out.

"... Another fact that must be accepted is that the majority of electors on Norfolk do not consider that the Norfolk Island Bill 1978 offers an acceptable form of responsible self-government. I've no doubt about this fact and I do not believe any other Councillor has, and I'm quite certain that hearing what's been said this afternoon that I would not be proven wrong.

"If the Minister or the Cabinet is not willing to accept the accuracy of what I'm saying, it's quite simple for them to call a referendum and find out. If they do not wish to call a referendum and still have any doubt about the electors' feelings, Council would be happy to ask the United Nations Association of Australia to supervise a Voluntary Act of Self-Determination amongst the electors. The Association has offered to do this, if Council believes it would be helpful. I personally don't believe it is necessary but if the Australian Government is not willing to accept Council's view of what the majority want, there is that simple way of determining it -- at no cost to the Government.

"Meanwhile, I accept it as fact

that the majority of people on Norfolk Island want self-government in association with Australia.

"In continuing consultation with the Minister, I believe we can profit from our experience during 1978 and should make several changes in our procedure. Council was handicapped in the discussions last year because of our lack of knowledge of some basic subjects. On the one hand the Minister, and other Government representatives, have an outstanding knowledge of such fields as law, constitutions and economics, and, in addition, were able to draw on expert assistance in those fields and other fields from the various Departments in Canberra. On the other hand, Council includes some men with some excellent training and education but in some discussions we were handicapped and uncertain of effects of some interpretations of wording in the Bill.

"For this reason, and in the interests of making the discussions as clear and useful as possible, Council I know would like to have the assistance of an expert adviser - especially in the field of Constitutional Law.

"A further amendment to our procedure, I believe, should be better communication with the public. Throughout our talks last year we were unable to get the benefit of any public comment because our meetings were all held in private. There is a definite value in private discussions, but I believe that, promptly, after each discussion - as has been mentioned before by a Councillor - there should be a public statement of what was discussed and agreed, and those subjects should then be open to full public consideration and comment.

"Following this procedure would, I believe, go a long way to preventing a repetition of the situation we're in now where we have gone through months of meetings and then discover that the people simply do not accept the results of those meetings.

"And with those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the motion be put."

Chairman: "Thank you for your interesting contributions.

"All those in favour? Councillor Buffett, Councillor Quintal, Councillor Bennett, Councillor MacKenzie, Councillor McIntyre, Councillor Nunn, Councillor Snell, Councillor Blucher.

"The Chairman abstains.

"The motion is passed."

NEWS FROM

THE OTHER ISLANDS

Polynesia

Melanesia

Micronesia



Lord Howe considering public bus system

LORD HOWE ISLAND is considering setting up a mini-bus service to provide public transport during daylight and early evening hours.

A small survey of recent tourists to Lord Howe indicated that a "lack of hire car vehicles" and "lack of activities on wet days" were sources of some dissatisfaction.

The questionnaire results were passed along to the island's Tourist Promotion Committee. After discussing the situation it resolved that "whilst the Committee is fully aware of the need to protect the island life-style, it recognizes that there is a requirement for transport to be available to serve the needs of visitors".

Push bikes, motor bikes and a small number of hire cars are available now. The Committee thinks a few more hire cars might be allowed, but proposed the bus service as a means of keeping motor cars to a minimum. Their idea is that the bus service would run every 30 minutes, and would be operated by the local "government" - the Lord Howe Island Board.

The island has about 180 cars and motor bikes using its 16 km of roads. The ratio of tourists to residents is close to Norfolk's, with around 5,000 tourists a year and about 300 permanent population.

Australia nurtures indigenous culture - in 11 other islands

INDIGENOUS CULTURE should be taught, communicated and passed on to the people so that they would enjoy, appreciate and value it, the Australian High Commissioner in Fiji, Mr. Gordon Upton, said in

Suva recently.

Opening the Fijian Teachers' Association's second Fijian Language Workshop at the University of the South Pacific, Mr. Upton said such cultures "should not be fossilised, but be susceptible to adaption in the light of changing needs."

He emphasized that indigenous cultures should be preserved as a sound and secure basis for the development of a national identity and national values.

Indigenous language was the important component that cemented all components of indigenous culture.

The language was culture in itself. It was the art of communication without which other components had less significance and might start to crumble.

He said more than \$400,000 had been given to 11 countries by the Australian Government for the Preservation and Development of South Pacific Cultures, to be spent on projects such as the recording of oral traditions, linguistics training, art workshops, preservation of archives, library and museum development, cultural instruction in schools, school festivals, publication of local writers, often in the vernacular, and dictionary development.

The countries which benefitted were Tonga, the Cook Islands, the Gilbert Islands, Nauru, the New Hebrides, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Western Samoa, Fiji and Tuvalu.

Foreign aid to Tonga almost doubled in 78

TONGA RECEIVED T\$7,700,000 in foreign aid during the 1977/78 financial year, the Tonga "Chronicle" reported in January.

Australia was the most generous donor country, giving the kingdom just over T\$2 million. Others contributing close to \$1 million or more each were

New Zealand, Japan, England and the European Economic Community.

The total for the year was almost double that of the previous year.

Tonga has also negotiated another big international loan at very favourable terms. The Federal Republic of Germany will lend the kingdom almost T\$9 million to buy a roll-on roll-off ship. A bit over \$1 million of the loan has to be paid in 15 years, with an interest rate of 7.8%. All the rest is payable over 30 years, with a grace period of a further 15 years, and at an interest rate of 1%.

Higher education available in Niue

PEOPLE IN NIUE - about 1500 miles N.E. of Norfolk, population 4,000, self-governing in free association with New Zealand - are getting increasing benefit from a local Extension Service Centre of the University of the South Pacific.

The University, based at Laucala Bay in Suva, Fiji, opened the Niue Extension Centre two years ago.

The Centre has carried out several projects to help Niueans explore and revive their "lost" culture of the past.

It offers an interesting range of extension courses, to be taken with a combination of correspondence, local supervision from the Centre, and, in the near future, television programming via satellite.

Courses offered to Niueans this year include introductory maths, history, physics, geography, chemistry, biology and English.

Four "pre-degree" courses are offered, in "Man in the Pacific", "Man and the Environment", "Pacific History" and foundation mathematics.

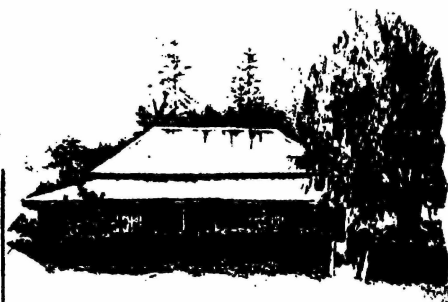
Courses in "communication and study skills" and "basic mathematical methods" are available for people wanting to improve their general work efficiency.

Degree and diploma subjects, which can be used to qualify for a diploma in Administrative Studies (and to help train future administration staff for the island) include accountancy, macroeconomics and administration.

Four education subjects are also taught - "Education and Society", "Classroom Learning", "Curriculum Studies" and "Child Development".

If on Niue, why not on Norfolk?

Norfolk



LIVING

"As you know, living on Norfolk Island, people are very articulate about their separate identity. It's inevitable that people would feel that way when they sense their cultural origins are being swamped or their culture is threatened."

These timely remarks and many interesting recollections of Norfolk's past were made by film producer, Ray Hall of Vancouver, B. C. Ray and his wife, Nicki, and two-year old son, Sam, recently spent three months on Norfolk visiting Ray's mother, Islander Avis Dunning.

Born on Norfolk, a great grandson of the American whaler, Dwight Allen, Ray comes back to Norfolk when he can to get back to his own roots.

"When I come back here," he says, "I don't just come back for the pretty scenery and the beaches. I can get that in Canada. I come back here for an attitude and my roots -- those things are important to people."

Having tapped these roots once more, Ray will soon be making a film on the history of the craft of nail making in Massachusetts, U. S. A. not far from New Bedford where his great grandfather set out on the famous whaling ship "Charles W. Morgan".

American Dwight Allen settled here 100 years ago as a whaler. He was a very popular figure and even though it was difficult in those days to arrange to purchase land and to settle here, he managed to do so. Dwight was grandfather to the 16 Nobbs children (Kit Roberts, dear "Auntie Val" whom we lost recently, and Ray among them) and father to "Aggie" who married C. C. R. Nobbs. He was able to stay on Norfolk because he was a skilled joiner and builder. He apparently was one of those men who could do anything -- and it was greatly desired that he stay among the island people. And what a wonderful legacy he left!

"My grandfather, Gus Allen, was also a whaler and he talked a lot about his experiences as a whaler," said Ray continuing to recall his own roots. "He had a whaling boat -- a long boat used now as a lighter -- his backyard was festooned with ropes that were drying, harpoons that he was making

would be drying in the shed -- he made them by hand. He hand-tempered the harpoons and lances -- he dried the ropes out and plaited them. I grew up having this lore of the sea passed on to me.

"He taught me how to handle myself on the rocks, how to catch fish, how to swim. He was acknowledged as one of the knowledgeable fishermen on the Island, both as a whaler and a fisherman for the rock fish and ocean-going fish.

"He knew all the rocks, the sightings, I only went out in the boat with him once -- young people didn't go out in the boats in those days. But I remember the discussions -- he'd say 'You line such and such a fishing bank with this pine tree and that part of Philip Island'. It was really pretty scientific.

"My father was an Australian. He built a home on six acres of land which he purchased from Joe Nobbs. It's behind Duncan Sanderson's Norfolk Souvenirs. The home is still there -- all the trees, macadamia nuts, frangipani, flowering gums -- all flourishing. I had a look at it the other day.

"My father worked for 'Bunny' Ryan who had the timber mill down at Cascades and until that burned down they had a system of logging with an old truck which was so frail. Because of the condition of the road, you'd have to put the front wheel in one gutter and the back wheel in the gutter on the other side and simply slide down the hill with this. If you went fast the brakes simply were not good enough. My father's job was to drive this thing. 'Eddie' Yeaman worked with him. And old 'Nicko'. He blew his hand off throwing dynamite. 'Nicko' was a character. He used to come and mooch methylated spirits from my father when he had the bakery. Father started a bakery in Burnt Pine. It was the only bakery on the Island for a number of years. Billy 'Pumpa' Christian delivered the bread. He delivered it on a cart pulled by a horse. The bread would be stacked on his cart and he'd be

driving this thing up Middlegate hill when the school kids would hang on the back. He had a switch and he'd try to keep us off."

(Ray Hall was kind enough to let The News interview him on two separate occasions. Next month we will continue with his recollections of Norfolk's past.)

Hello, Frangipani!

"I'VE ALWAYS ADORED clothes," says Margaret Sedgwick, manageress of Norfolk's 'Frangipani', a stunning new shop on Norfolk Island. "American clothes, especially, have always appealed to me. For five years I trained in the buying and fashion scene at David Jones, Sydney. I was always very conscious of the clean, crisp designs and original flair of American clothes featured on D.J.'s Sixth Floor. But the clothes were so expensive."

Now people on Norfolk will be able to buy the latest on the high fashion scene in an exclusive shop attached to an old island home called 'Leeside'. Set back from the road by about 75yds. and nestled in the quiet, tropical gardens surrounding the home, 'Frangipani' will offer a wide range of resort and designer wear from America.

As an additional bonus the next season's fashions can be purchased well in advance of their availability on the mainland.

And the prices are comparable to U. S. mainland prices! -- which means about half what you'd pay in Sydney if you were lucky enough to find any place that carried such a wide range as 'Frangipani'. You will be pleased by the resort wear prices. Original designer dresses are expensive but still not so high considering they are one of a kind.

'Frangipani's' range, basically is quality resort clothes but includes a specialty shop room of designer clothes as well. In this room the famous Halston, Christian Dior and Chester Weinberg are featured. The statement here is elegance. Long sleeved, small-cuffed polyester blouses with the Christian Dior name cleverly used in the design of the print, with self ties in a wide range of colours caught my eye. Marvel-

lous with suits for travelling or evening slacks.' A plain cocoa brown shirtmaker dress in a tiny print with a mushroom-coloured suede "pinked" tie belt, looked perfect for a smart luncheon anywhere in the world. A cocktail and on-to-dinner 2-piece ensemble in black lightweight silk crepe with rhinestone shoe string straps and absolutely packable also looked stunning. Dresses by Weinberg of Connecticut are infinitely wearable and always fashionable.

In another room, clothes under the label "The Vested Gentress" from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania seem to have been designed with Norfolk's lifestyle in mind. Long wraparound skirts, straight skirts with zip in back and self tie in crisp, fresh prints - all in their own screen and printed designs. "Morning Glory" and "Hummingbird" were charming patterns and the skirts simple but beautifully made. All can be worn with co-ordinating cotton tops.

"Game skirts" - very big in the U.S. - are another line manufactured by this same firm. "Game skirts" are short (to knee level) and used for golf, tennis, etc. They have panty-petticoats stitched in underneath. Each print is different - called "springworm", "horses and apples", "lazy frogs", "toucan parrot", "whales and ships" etc. They are fun and very practical. The skirts can be matched with 50% cotton, 50% polyester T-shirts in bright colours with keyhole or ordinary scoop necks.

Most unusual, but again very trendy in the U.S. are mid-calf length wraparound skirts made from decorator fabrics. These are a speciality of Phillis Gardner of Miami, Florida. The skirts also come with halter tops or matching, triangular scarves and some have matching tote bags as well.

In the main salon of 'Frangipani' a beautiful showcase, custom-made on Norfolk, is filled with pure silk and crinkled cotton Dior shirts which subtly reflect the quality of elegance exclusive to Dior. Colours are orchid, ivory, pink and mauve.

'Frangipani' also features accessories to highlight its lovely clothes. Beautiful ebony and sandalwood hair decorations, long stick pins in wood inlaid with abalone shell, little combs with summer flowers (all from Wichita, Kansas), and necklaces, chain belts, chokers and bracelets by Kenneth J. Lane of New York City.

More is on the way ladies. Margaret hopes to have a constant flow of new things and will stock trans-seasonal clothes all the time. Due

any minute will be Ann Klein jeans, Gil Aimbez Bonmenager dresses, skirts and tops, matching co-ordinates and slacks, pants skirts and tunic tops in voile from Blousecraft of New York and Hawaiian clothes by



A LITTLE
CHAT
with
HELEN
PAYNE

THERE ARE TIMES when friends visit or maybe you just hanker for some luxury when one feels perfectly justified indulging oneself and hang the expense! It was on such an occasion recently that we enjoyed these dishes.

PRAWN RISSOTTO (Serves 4)

Heat 1 oz. butter and saute 1 small chopped onion until golden. Add 6 oz. rice and stir until translucent. Pour over 2 cups boiling fish stock (made of fish heads) and add bouquet garni. Stir well, lower heat

"Nani", a new division of Torie Richard. Men's shirts in a non-crushable silky-polyester will also be arriving from Hawaii. Also, Hal Halston and other designer swimming costumes, scarves and belts.

and cover. Cook until rice is tender and all liquid absorbed (about 15 minutes). Spread rice in an ovenproof service dish. Place in moderate oven for 5 minutes to dry. Cut 1 lb. green shelled prawns in halves lengthways and coat with seasoned flour. Dip in milk and coat again. Fry in hot oil for 3-5 minutes until golden. Drain quickly and mix prawns with prepared rice which has been seasoned well with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with mild grated cheese and serve immediately. A crisp salad of your choice goes well with this dish.

CHERRY TORTONI (Serves 4-6)

Whisk 2 egg whites till stiff, add gradually 2 tablespoons caster sugar, beating continuously. Add a pinch of salt and fold in 4 oz. chopped toasted blanched almonds. Then fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. whipped cream and one tablespoon marsala or sherry. Spoon mixture into serving dishes and freeze. Decorate with cherries before serving.

IN BOND

WINES ON NORFOLK - by "VINAS"

SOME TIME AGO I praised the Stanley Spring Gully Rhine Riesling which, at the time, was available in some restaurants here but not over the Bond counter. This has now been corrected and the 1978 vintage is available to all @ \$2.85. It is a good example of the style with plenty of fruit and a pleasing crisp finish.

What is a White Burgundy?

Basically the term would cover any white produced in the Burgundy region of France and range across Chablis, Montrachet and many others. In Australia, however, it has come to be regarded as a separate style which is allowed some time in new oak casks prior to bottling to add an extra dimension to a dry white. The Bond now has a selection of wines under this label and I have com-

pared several.

The Quelltaler 1975 vintage, made from the popular Semillon grape, would have been given above average time in oak and has now added a couple of years bottle age. It appealed as a very good example of the style and certainly well priced @ \$2.40.

For those who may prefer a less dominant oak tang, I can recommend Houghton's from Western Australia. This has always been a well regarded wine although it has sometimes suffered from excessively hot summers but the 1977 season obviously went well. Made from comparatively little used Chignon Blanc and Tokay grapes it is a wine to enjoy. The price is \$3.25.

One maker who apparently chose to ignore tradition was John Fotts of Langhorne Creek. His 1977, which carries no varietal information on its label, is a distinctly individual wine, somewhat sweet with a pleasant spritzig and most enjoyable once you accept it is not at all what you may have expected. Reasonably priced @ \$2.90.



Letter from Home



ALTHOUGH most residents have been praying for rain, the weather has been perfect during January for the schoolchildren and visitors to the Island. Actually weather-wise these Christmas holidays were the best the children have had for quite some time. It makes it so much more pleasant for everyone when the children can play outdoors most of the time.

There have been several activities held during January at which residents and visitors have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

One function which was particularly enjoyable was the Island Picnic organized by the School Tour Committee to raise funds for the 6th Class tour of New South Wales in May this year. The picnic was held in the Youth Centre Compound and the laden tables were appropriately decorated with banana leaves and hibiscus. A very nice gesture was Maxine Hobbins and Sue Pearson (6th class pupils) welcoming the guests at the gate with a hibiscus flower and a pamphlet which explained the history and purpose of the school tour.

It wasn't very long before the picnic area was ready and guests were told there were two tables to which they could go - thus not such a long wait. The meal included ham, pork, chicken and lovely deep-fried fish, together with all the different types of pilhi, pumpkin fritters and a wide variety of salads. The food was served by the mothers who included Pam Matthews, Evelyn Hobbins, Mary McNamara, Pat Magri, Jan Pearson and Margaret Christian. A number of fathers, Mac Adams, Peter Magri and Albert Buffett, were very busy cooking the fish and pumpkin fritters. After the main course guests were then invited to sample the Island sweets - all different pies, trifles and a delicious fruit salad. A delicious meal!

Then a real surprise was in store - a troupe of Tahitian dancers. Their performances were really terrific and it was so good to see some of the younger ones had obviously been taught especially for the occasion. Dancers included Mavis Hitch and Evelyn Hobbins, Lisa Woodward,

Jenny Grube and Karlene Blucher-Christian. The locals couldn't help commenting on how much Karlene resembled her mum, Mavis Hitch. The "littlies", 9 year old Angela Hobbins, and 6 year old Rebecca Hayes, really stole the show. They had been taught a particular routine and they remembered their movements perfectly. I think Evelyn and Mavis are to be congratulated on the time they have obviously spent with all the young ones in an effort to continue on the traditions of Island dancing. A colourful and entertaining conclusion to a terrific night.

A friend of Peter and Mudgi Gulle, Joe the Juggler, provided much laughter and enjoyment for the children up at Banyan Park. This was another function organized by the School Tour Committee. Joe is a teacher of Mime and Drama in Melbourne. Juggling and magic are his hobbies - he hadn't performed for children before. He certainly held their attention with his clever juggling and cake making. Matthew Dunn thought he was "Christmas" when the juggler showed him he (Matthew) had laid four eggs to put into the banana cake. Zena Heinz was the "straight" lady and ably assisted Joe. At one stage Zena dressed up as a Tahitian dancer. She asked Rebecca Hayes to show her what to do. Matthew Dunn was the only other willing pupil. It was quite funny when Joe asked if any of the children had thongs that he could juggle. As you can imagine thongs were flying through the air in all directions. The afternoon finished off with the showing of some really entertaining cartoons. The general comment as everyone left the hall was that there should be more such entertainment for the children during the holidays.

Rawson Hall was the next venue for entertainment during January. The Blues Football Club, with the help of the Blues ladies, organized a Family Fish Fry. The hall was arranged caberet style, with sufficient space left for a dance floor. The meal consisted of fried fish, sausages, chips, coleslaw and tomato and onion salad. It was all very tasty. There were many tourists

present who, I'm sure, thoroughly enjoyed the fresh fish. Gizelle and Phyllis Evans, Dianne Menghetti, Jan Cooper and Robin Graham were kept very busy serving the salads whilst Sid Cooper and Culla Graham served the hot part of the meal. I know there must have been a number of Blues outside doing the cooking and I think it was Kevin Williams and Allan Bataille who were so busy behind the bar. After the meal the dancing was enjoyed to the music of Sneaky's band. The Island is certainly going to miss Sneaky's lively music when George and Dennis Smith leave for Australia in a few week's time. Their voices will be very much missed on the local radio station too.

Another voice which has been enjoyed on the radio over the past few months is that of Canadian, Nicki Hall, who was here with her husband and son to visit Ray Hall's mother, Avis Dunning. Nicki and Ray left last Sunday. Whilst here, because of their experience with television and interviewing people, the Radio Officer asked them if they would be interested in compiling a programme for Deutsche Welle - the West German radio station. To celebrate the International Year of the Child, Deutsche Welle selected ten radio stations around the world and had asked each of the stations to provide 5 or 6 minutes of interviews with children so that when the hour-long programme was prepared the children interviewed could give an indication of the life-style in their particular country. The Norfolk Island radio station was one of the ten selected. Nicki said their intention was to try and bring out the rather unique situation on the Island where the children, parents and grandparents are all so much more of one family than on the mainland. Perhaps the Island children here take such a situation for granted because they know no other life-style. Nicki said she and Ray found it difficult to ask the right questions to bring out this aspect. Nicki and Ray also had hoped the children would have much the same to say about such aspects as swimming, fishing, living on Norfolk etc., but this they found wasn't so. A cross-section of young people on the Island were chosen to be interviewed. From the interviews, Ray and Nicki now have the job of compiling only 5 or 6 minutes from several hours of tapes. The hour-long programme when it is finally broadcast should be most interesting.

Cheerio for now!

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